

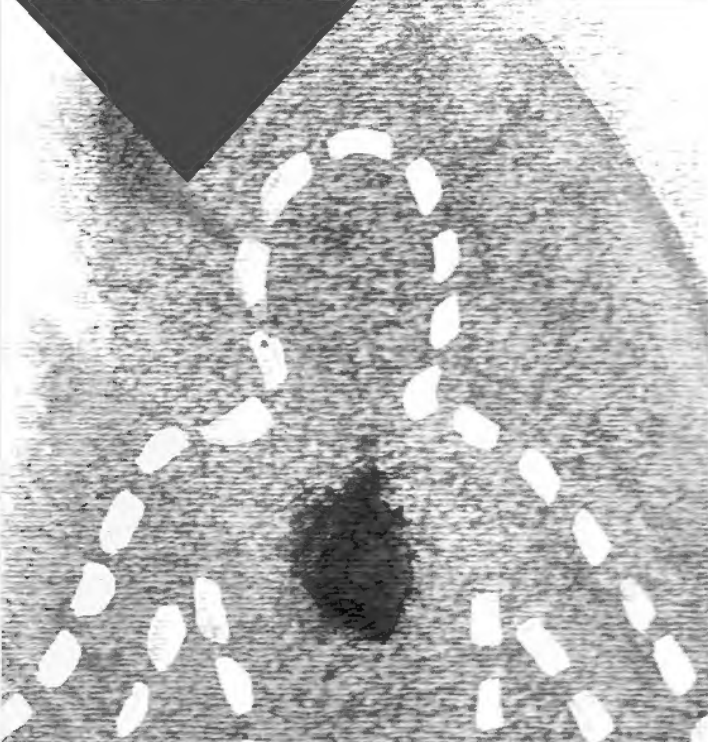


THE GATEWAY



volume CI number 44 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, march 31, 2011

inside



"A moment of quiet desperation"

The Gateway discusses the issue of suicide among young adults in the final installment of our mental health series.

FEATURE, PAGES 16-17



BRANDON MEWHORT

A QUIET SUBTLETY A man in Indonesia makes cloth prints in one of the winning entries in *The Gateway* Literary Contest. To see the others, check pages 12-15.

IBM researcher shows off Watson's complex innards

HAYLEY DUNNING
News Staff

In February, IBM's "Watson" super-computer defeated two *Jeopardy!* champions. On Monday, Watson researcher James Fan explained to a U of A audience exactly how they managed to do it.

The idea for the project came from an IBM executive, who had to convince a team of researchers to take on the huge task. In 2007, the original QA machine fell well below the performance of a typical *Jeopardy!* winner.

"What computers find hard is natural language. *Jeopardy!* is in this domain, and gives us a challenge. It helps us to produce a calculable, novel way to measure the drive in technology, to measure the progress," Fan said.

Watson is built with a knowledge database of 200 million pages of raw text, but a basic keyword search cannot cope with the complex semantics in a *Jeopardy!* clue. Watson instead uses several algorithms for many types of evidence, such as temporal reasoning, statistical paraphrasing, and geo-spatial reasoning.

The hundreds of gigabytes of data that comprise the knowledge set and algorithms are all stored within 2,880



SUPPLIED

computer cores, which allows Watson to compute a series of likely answers in two to six seconds, rather than in the two hours it would take with a single 2.6 gigahertz core.

Each "candidate answer" is given a confidence, and if this figure is above a pre-determined threshold, Watson will ring in and give an answer in the game show. The threshold changes throughout the game — if Watson has a big lead, the threshold will be high to minimize risk; if he's lagging behind,

Watson will live more dangerously.

While some human strategy is built into Watson, he does have some disadvantages compared to his fleshy competitors.

"We can hear Watson speaking [...] but Watson cannot hear other players' answers. If another player gets the right answer, *Jeopardy!* sends the answer back to Watson. But if a player gets the wrong answer, Watson has no idea what it was," Fan explained.

PLEASE SEE **WATSON** ♦ PAGE 5

Smartphone text harder to comprehend

MATT MEUSE
News Writer

Reading comprehension from a smartphone screen is as low as half of that when reading from a standard desktop monitor, according to a recent study by a University of Alberta research team.

James Miller, professor of electrical and computer engineering and a member of the team that conducted the study, said that quirks inherent to smartphones and how people read from them means that mobile content providers need to develop smartphone-specific versions of their material if they want to have it properly understood by users.

"People tend to read better on [paper] than on [desktop computers], and when you just drop down again, you're making much more visual demands," Miller said.

The study focused specifically on privacy policies used by websites such as Facebook and Google. Using a Cloze test — a standard test of comprehension that omits words from a document at regular intervals and asks subjects to reinsert the correct word — Miller and his team found that comprehension of a privacy policy when read on an iPhone-sized screen was rated at 48 percent when compared to the same policy read on a desktop monitor.

PLEASE SEE **IPHONE** ♦ PAGE 3

Complex theatrical creations

U of A Studio Theatre takes a closer look into the enigmatic work of Gertrude Stein.

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Musical mysteries

The Gateway talks to Mother Mother's Ryan Guldmond about the unexpected meaning he's found in the band's lyrics.

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colophon

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contributors

Aaron Yeo, Siwei Chen, Matt Meuse, Alex Migdal, Evan Daum, Andrew Jeffrey, Rachel Singer, Kaitlyn Menard, Hayley Dunning, Dulgunn Bayasgalan, Peter Holmes, Ryan Bromsgrove, Darcy Ropchan, Paul Swanson, Ross Vincent, Carole Yue, Lauren Alston, Ross Lockwood, Max Lutz, Armand Ludick, Amir Ali Shirafi, Anthony Goertz Skybox by Dan McKechnie

“ You remember SUBSpace? That you did? And then I killed?

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Siwei Chen

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting on Tuesday, April 5, will be the last for the current council members, and free food will be provided.

At the last meeting, the culinary artistes at L'Express provided a scrumptious spread of both vegetarian and meat-filled chili, with scones and salad on the side. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.

BALANCED TO UNDER A DOLLAR

Students' Union Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman gave council a presentation on the final numbers of the 2011/2012 SU budget. After reviewing a number of changes from the budgetary adjustments, Fentiman explained general revenue trends over time. The motion to pass the budget as presented passed, with little debate on the plan.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE ... REDEVELOP

The Environment Coordination Office of Students (ECOS) spoke to council on a number of changes they planned for the upcoming year, including a new name. They plan on redeveloping their three pillars of sustainability to alleviate some

inconsistencies, and ECOS' development and achievements since its inception in 2003 has prompted the office to refocus their mandate. Although ECOS had contacted Augustana, this redevelopment plan will currently focus only on North Campus as their resources are spread thin. The Students' Union executive will be voting on the changes in the next week or two.

FUNDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

When Vice President (Academic) James Eastham's presented his Executive Committee report, it indicated that the university has budgeted \$200,000 for undergraduate research for the next academic year.

QUESTION PERIOD

A question was put to Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe concerning the number of faculty associations that had gotten back to him regarding microwave supply and placement on campus. Only two have responded, and Tighe hopes to get feedback at the end of next week after another email.

Tighe also answered a question concerning Week of Welcome volunteering since nothing had been sent out updating students on their applications. Tighe said the deadline had been extended a number of times in order to receive more applications. For facilitators, all of the interviews will occur at the same time.

Vice President (External) Aden Murphy fielded a question concerning the imminent federal elections and what the SU and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) have

planned. Murphy said that because of the upcoming federal election, some of their plans will not pan out. One such idea was the use of a text message database where students would receive election messages on their phones. For now, Murphy hopes to hold events on campus, such as an all-candidates forum. They're looking to hopefully host the candidates in the next couple of weeks. Advance polling dates have been set for April 22, 23, and 25. President Nick Dehod added that the challenge of reaching students in the midst of final exams will hopefully be best mitigated by using social media.

The Faculty of Science is down to two faculty advisors, leading to lengthy wait times during drop-in hours, and schedules booked weeks in advance. A question to find a solution was posed to Eastham, who acknowledged the continuing lack of advisory staff in the Faculty of Science. The university is looking into solutions, but most changes will not be felt in the short term. Eastham regrets that there is really no simple solution.

HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN CAP

Council voted to approve the new Health and Dental Plan fees, under the conditions that the Health portion will not exceed \$105.99, the Dental Plan portion will not exceed \$107.34, ensuring that the total annual cost will not exceed \$213.33.

FINANCIAL FAIRNESS

Council passed Bill 52, a political policy on student loans, after amending that parental contributions be removed as a factor in evaluating financial need,

ZACH FENTIMAN
Vice President (Operations and Finance)

—On Steven Dollansky's term as Vice President (Operations and Finance)

a point that was previously deleted. Council members did not believe that making parental contributions mandatory allowed all students equal opportunity to student loans, especially since most students would lack control over their familial situations.

PUBLICLY POSTED

Bill 41 passed in the first reading, stating that minutes of executive, board of directors, council, and general meetings will be made public. Council was specific in requiring that minutes be posted rather than simply available upon request.

ELECTION MONEY FIX

Bill 43 concerning the standardization of penalties for election candidates failing to submit expense forms was moved through council. Although some were worried about the breadth of this topic in allowing the Chief Returning Officer to decide on specific penalties, council ultimately found that this bill included too many unnecessary regulations, and the motion did not pass.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Council decided to abolish the existence of slates in elections by passing Bill 44 in the first reading; however, the endorsement of other candidates will be permitted as long as there is no sharing of resources or finances. That means that candidates will be able to use similar colours on posters and recommend that students vote for others running for election, but candidates will not be able to label their posters with a unifying name, share financial resources, or campaign at the same table.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Aaron Yeo and Matt Hirji



Ryan McDonald
Phys Ed III



Carly Perreux
Phys Ed IV



Steve Lesniak
Arts Alumni



Colten Yamagishi
Business III

I guess they've realized that our generation is so into apps and technology and stuff, that it's probably the best way to get our attention.

I don't think anyone should tell you who to vote for. It should be your own opinion, not a computer program.

I think the questions are really badly crafted. For example, my position on the abolition of the Senate doesn't have anything to do with my social liberalism. It told me to vote liberal, but it put me in a weird quadrant.

It probably gives students a better idea than they have right now; I know a lot of my friends don't have a political orientation. I think it's a good start to get people involved. As long as they actually read up and find out what the parties are about.

A federal election is yet again underway. But with students leaving for summer vacation before the May 2 vote, how will it affect the Edmonton-Strathcona riding that so many of us call home?

Check out The Gateway next Thursday for a look at the federal riding that surrounds the University of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY
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VOTE



AARON YEO

Council tackles low attendance

SIMON YACKULIC
Deputy News Editor

Students' Council moved to deal with absenteeism among councillors, tackling what Board of Governors Representative Craig Turner called "a serious attendance problem at council."

In a year when multiple councillors have neglected to attend even half of council meetings, council passed a motion amending standing orders to indicate that, should a councillor be absent for more than three meetings a semester, their faculty or campus association will be notified. Law councillor Leslie Stitt introduced the motion, explaining that he hoped it would increase attendance.

"What would most likely take place under this is Students' Council would inform the faculty association, and the faculty association would use good old-fashioned methods of shame to make people come to council," Stitt said. "It is worded in such a way that we would not be able to remove councillors, as I do not think that we have a right to do that."

According to Stitt, council has been throwing around the idea of addressing apathy for a few years, though nothing had come of it until now.

He argued that this might not be the best solution, but it's better than the past approach, which Stitt described as "doing absolutely nothing."

"It's good to send a message to students that we actually are doing something about this, and we're not just ignoring an issue. We shouldn't be accountable to a faculty association, but we should be accountable to students within that faculty," Stitt said.

"This is something that will mostly benefit smaller faculty associations that have one representative, such as medicine, law, [or] native studies. Medicine hasn't had any representation here for four months. Native studies has had very spotty representation. This is something that should be addressed. These faculties deserve to be represented on this council and [students] should know when they aren't."

The Gateway tried to reach the councillors for medicine and native studies but were unable to get comment by press time.

While most councillors present at the meeting seemed to agree that poor attendance was a problem, there was disagreement on what method was best to combat it. Some members of the executive opposed to the motion.

Vice President (Operations and

Finance) Zach Fentiman noted that there are some faculty associations that are chaired by their faculty's councillor, which he noted could be the same undergraduate that is missing council meetings. Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe said that he understood the "shaming" point of the motion, but felt that there were other, more effective ways of addressing the issue.

Vice President (Academic) James Eastham deals with faculty associations as part of the Academic portfolio, and said that he was apprehensive about the motion because of how "functional" some faculty associations are. Instead, he suggested making it easier for undergraduates to find out what their representatives are doing.

"Some faculty associations are perhaps less functional than even Students' Council, so it is perhaps not necessarily going to accomplish the goals that the councillor wants," Eastham explained.

"Perhaps there'd be a different way to post attendance instead of having it buried in minutes, like having it more prominently displayed on the Students' Union website or something else."

Despite some expressed opposition, the motion still passed with most of council in favour.

U of A study examined reading of privacy policies on smartphones and desktops

IPHONE ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Privacy policies are often problematic in their construction to begin with. According to Jakob Nielsen, a researcher in web usability, as of March 2011, Facebook's privacy policy is rated at a 13th grade reading level, meaning that people with less than a year of university experience already find it difficult to understand.

"As far we can tell, privacy policies are, as a protection mechanism for people who are using the internet on smartphones [...] basically completely useless. They are completely unreadable," Miller said. "In reality, the user will be getting no real information when they enter details. They will have no idea what's really going to happen to them."

These results, combined with the rapid increase in popularity of smartphones, suggested to Miller and his team that a complete revolution in writing styles is needed to balance deficits in understanding. However, this is a slow process. According to Miller, we are only just starting to see the emergence of a unique "online" style of writing that is recognizably different from writing for print documents.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

"All of the international newspapers are there now, but if you look at many sites on the internet, people are still just copying paper," he said. "That's not going to work on a web browser, and it's certainly not going to work on a smartphone."

What this new style would look like is not entirely clear, but it is something that Miller and his team hope to discover through further research.

"What we've been doing recently is trying to characterize what the

differences are between the text that you see on your printed version of a newspaper and the text that you would see on a version of a newspaper viewed in a browser," he said.

"We're trying to look at and characterize how the writing style in the newspaper changes between the two media, and whether there is then some way to extrapolate further down onto smaller devices or whether in reality it needs a complete shift in thought to accommodate them."

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Students study life with HIV through art

AARON YEO
News Staff

First-year nursing students chose coloured pencils over scalpels last week in an activity designed to teach them about HIV in their community.

In a session hosted by HIV Edmonton, a local support group for those suffering from HIV, more than thirty Nursing students spent their Friday afternoon tracing outlines of each other and expressing their personal stories with a variety of markers, pastels, and crayons in a process called body mapping. After removing their shoes and sitting on the floor, the students were encouraged to be freely creative in the body mapping activity.

"There are no barriers. You can't make a mistake in this process," said Lynn Sutankayo, a U of A alumni who led the session. "It's really just fun and play and just going with it, letting your guard down. Which I know is different [from] university classrooms."

On three-by-seven foot pieces of paper, students drew several outlines of different people in their groups, and then drew symbols that represented their background. The students were told to open up to their peers about what's important to them, and not to hide their past. Short- and long-term goals of the students were portrayed as well, in an effort to put the entire lives of students in an artistic display.

Sutankayo, community education coordinator at HIV Edmonton, said body mapping started out in South Africa as an art project to help women to live with HIV. It was used as a method to help those infected to open up to their communities and to live life without fear.

"There's a lot of stigma to go along with this disease; people don't like to disclose that they have it, and people don't like to talk about it if their friends or family members have been affected. For many reasons, AIDS and HIV is related to death, drugs, sex; stuff that's hard to talk about."



AARON YEO

THAT AIN'T NO ETCH-A-SKETCH First-year nurses drew body maps in a self-exploration exercise.

Sutankayo thinks it's important to get those in nursing to understand HIV and to get rid of any stereotypes, especially as they will see patients infected with the virus on a regular basis.

"Often as healthcare providers, we feel that we're entitled to know everything about our patients' body, but we have to appreciate how much trust is required for a person to feel safe enough to disclose their history to us," said Sutankayo. "What we're here to do is to de-stigmatize HIV and people living with HIV."

Two HIV Edmonton volunteers with HIV were present to help the students with their body maps, as well as tell their personal stories of how the activity helped them in their struggles.

One student, Kaitlyn Gorman, didn't know

what to expect when she first went into the session, and said that it changed the way she looked at the ailment.

"I wasn't really sure about HIV. I didn't really know a lot about the disease, so I was kind of oblivious to it and ignorant to it," she said. "Now I feel like I understand a lot more and have gained a lot of knowledge towards it, and I'm much more accepting, and have gotten rid of all those stereotypes that I did have before."

Sutankayo also mentioned that body mapping could be used as a tool to help people with all sorts of issues or problems in life, not just chronic illnesses such as HIV.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ONLINE IN AN AUDIO SLIDE-SHOW AT WWW.THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Aaron Yeo

BOP IT!

At 3 p.m. on March 21, a car owner reported that their vehicle had been broken into while parked in the Education building car park. The thief gained access by "punching" the driver's side door lock and subsequently stole a speaker. UAPS want to remind drivers not to leave valuables in their vehicles in plain view and to contact UAPS if they notice any suspicious persons around vehicles.

THAT'S A REAL NICE (BIKE) RACK

UAPS officers observed a male loitering around a bike rack near the University Terrace building at 1:30 p.m. on March 22. The male has an extensive criminal record including theft and trespassing. He was given a new trespass notice and photographed before being told to leave campus.

CRIMINAL CONSIGNMENT

Staff from the Book Cellar in HUB reported a male had stolen two textbooks on March 23 at 2:30 p.m. The male had consigned the books and when staff did an inventory, they realized the male had taken the books. He was described as Caucasian and slim with dark hair, wearing a dark baseball cap, navy blue hoodie, and blue jeans. UAPS officers checked the area but were not able to locate the male.

GRAND THEFT AUTO III

At 3:45 a.m. on March 24, UAPS received a call from security at the NINT building that a male was at their front desk reporting he had just been robbed at gunpoint in Windsor car park. The robber stole the victim's car and wallet. All UAPS units were dispatched to the area and EPS were contacted. EPS advised this had been the third such incident that day and asked UAPS to be on the lookout for a grey Oldsmobile that had been stolen earlier from a casino on Argyll Road. The first vehicle had been stolen from the River Cree Casino. The stolen Oldsmobile was recovered on the top level of Windsor car park. The victim was interviewed by EPS and given a ride home by UAPS.



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Three swipes effective in cleaning plastics

RACHEL SINGER
News Staff

Simply wiping an object three times with some salt water can be just as effective at cleaning plastic surfaces as using disinfectants, alcohols, or bleach, according to a University of Alberta researcher.

Andrea Berendt, a fourth-year medical student, along with her supervisor Dr. Sarah Forgie, looked at how well different kinds of disinfectant wipes that are used in hospitals or households can be used to clean bacteria off of plastic objects. The wipes from the grocery store were bleach-based and the wipes from the hospital had different types of disinfectants. They also used a tissue with saline, which is water with a 0.9 per cent sodium chloride concentration.

The different wipes were then used to clean artificially contaminated plastic petri dishes. The plates were swiped once, three times, or five times. More than 1,000 petri dishes were wiped, and the researchers discovered to their surprise that the disinfecting wipes didn't perform particularly well.

"At one swipe, the disinfecting wipes all performed equally well, which wasn't a big shock and the saline on the tissue didn't do very well. But at three swipes, even the saline on the tissue did just as well as the disinfecting wipes, which was the big surprise," Forgie said.

Forgie and Berendt think that these results suggest that probably the mechanical action of wiping the plastic removes the bulk of the

bacteria, rather than the type of disinfectant used. Therefore, both of them hope this could possibly lead to a change in how disinfectants are used in the community as well as in the hospital.

"We hope what this means is that the mechanical removal of bacteria, the actual rubbing, is the more important factor rather than the actual disinfectant ingredient. So that might mean we could stop using so many disinfectant ingredients which are expensive, which are sometimes harmful to the environment, and which can cause antimicrobial resistance among bacteria [...] and use much more readily available things like saline or perhaps tap water," Berendt said.

A major issue with disinfectants being used in the community is the possibility of bacteria becoming resistant to the antimicrobial agents that are in many disinfectant products.

"There is very good data to show that disinfectants at home are not necessary and they are not helpful. [Researchers have] looked at family settings out in the community and having disinfectants there is not helpful. It can actually be harmful if we get resistance, so that's a big worry with using it in the community," Forgie said.

Forgie hopes that the next phase of the project will look at actual plastic devices, such as pagers and cell phones, which are commonly used in the community as well as the hospital.

Their paper was published at the beginning of February in the *American Journal of Infection Control*.



DAN MCKECHNIE

SQUEAKY CLEAN A U of A study shows that the wiping motion could trump disinfectant use.

Watson shows competence in puns, medicine

WATSON ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Watson's performance also dipped when obscure question forms were used, such as when the clue was simply the name of an actor, with the task to name a film that actor has also directed.

However, just like human contestants, Watson can learn about the nature of categories during questions with little dollar value, making him better prepared for more valuable challenges. Watson is also fitted with an algorithm for "pun detection" which improves performance, but doesn't always catch a quip.

Fifty-five games of *Jeopardy!* were played before the television showdown, of which Watson won 71 per cent, and came second the rest of the time.

The advances that the DeepQA project has made opens the way for a variety of important real-life applications, including business intelligence, technical support, and health care.

"There's a team of people working on the applications for the medical domain. There's a set of questions people wrote in the form of *Jeopardy!* clues on medical issues, for residents and interns. We took that set of questions and read them directly [and] for medical diagnosis, he surprisingly answered quite many questions," Fan said.

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8. THE AWESOMEHOTS - THE AWESOMEHOTS
9. GEOFF BERNER - VICTORY PARTY
10. ACOUSTIC RAINBOW: BLUEGRASS VOL. 1
11. AUDIO/ROCKETRY - PILOTING A VEHICLE OF AUDIBLE EXPRESSION
12. KRANG - SPEED OF TENT B/W SPIRIT ANIMAL
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Women lag behind in earning doctoral degrees: StatsCan

TANNARA YELLAND
CUP Prairies & Northern Bureau Chief

SASKATOON (CUP) — A recent study reaffirmed the perception that more women are graduating from high school and undergraduate programs, but the gender divide increases at higher levels of academia.

Despite the fact that women account for 58 per cent of Canadian undergraduate enrolments and 56 per cent of graduate enrolments, according to Statistics Canada, women still account for only 47 per cent of doctoral enrolments.

"We have to recognize that there are still a lot of general and internalized stereotypes that as a society we impose, which we are slowly overcoming," said University of Manitoba graduate students' association president Meaghan Labine.

"At this point I don't believe there is any intention for there to be less women in PhD programs, but rather that women as a whole are learning to see themselves in professions that only a short time ago were unobtainable."

Labine said that as more women enter certain professions and disciplines, that will likely encourage more women to follow suit.

Labine's assertion is backed up by a study conducted by the University of California Davis, where researchers examined female and male students at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The study found that a teacher's gender had little to no effect on male students, but that "it has a powerful effect on female students' performance in math and science classes, their likelihood of taking future math and science courses, and their likelihood of graduating with a [science, technology, engineering, or math] degree."

At the U of M, women already outnumber men in doctoral programs in several disciplines, from arts and education to medicine, where there are 67 women and 49 men enrolled.



SUPPLIED

The lone architecture doctorate student is also a woman.

But in the areas where women most often make the poorest showing, they are still far behind. There are only 26 women working alongside 150 men to achieve doctorates in engineering, and in the hard sciences, the ratio is 44 women to 82 men.

"We have to recognize that there are still a lot of general and internalized stereotypes that as a society we impose, which we are slowly overcoming."

MEAGHAN LABINE
PRESIDENT, U OF M GRADUATE
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

According to StatsCan, of all the doctorate recipients in Canada in 2007-08, 55 per cent planned to work. Half of the women who

intended to work after receiving their degree, wanted to work in universities and colleges.

These women will be teaching more young men and women, and the mere fact of their presence if they are standing at the front of a science or math class may encourage their female students to continue on in their fields.

The good news — at least for disciplines that already boast a healthy percentage of women at the upper educational levels — comes in the UC Davis study. Having women teaching encourages the women who are studying from them. Their confidence in their abilities is higher and they are more likely to obtain degrees.

The problem now seems to be encouraging more women to continue from a masters program to a doctorate, especially in sciences and engineering.

"One method to address gender imbalance is by promoting gender equality and balance within the administration and faculty," Labine said. She felt this would be more effective than simply "trying to get more female students through the door."

Students okay with tuition increases, budget cuts: study

TANNARA YELLAND
CUP Prairies & Northern Bureau Chief

SASKATOON (CUP) — When students know their university is facing a budget crisis they are willing to accept both tuition increases and budget cuts, according to a new study.

Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA), a research and strategy group for higher education clients, found that when asked to consider a university's situation in dealing with a budget crisis, most students are willing to see their tuition increase.

Only one student in six said they wanted tuition frozen at any cost and more than one-third of students would accept a five per cent tuition increase if it were coupled with budget cuts of 7.5 per cent. Another third said a tuition increase of 10 per cent and budget cuts of five per cent would be acceptable.

University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President (Academic) James Eastham disagrees with the

assertion that negative reactions to tuition have to do with a lack of awareness over an institution's financial situation. He says that the U of A does communicate with students, but that doesn't mean tuition increases will be well-received.

"I would say that the current situation that we have [at the U of A] with all of the consultation that we get is very good at helping us to understand why the university is in the positions that they are," he said.

"But I don't necessarily think that it will make us happy that tuition is going up or that budgets are being cut."

University of Manitoba Students' Union President Heather Laube said in a recent email that despite being involved in planning the U of M's budget each year, students "unfortunately are often a minority voice on the [budget advisory] committee," especially when asking for lower tuition.

Laube said she finds the main

benefit to sitting on the committee is not in directing policy and funding, but in "obtaining advance information on what the next year's university budget will look like."

The study found that "while [students] think it might be appropriate for a university to ask students to pay more to close a budget gap, they also want to see the pain shared," but as Laube explained, students often feel they have little say in how funds are actually allocated.

Associate Vice President (Risk Management Services) Phillip Stack at the U of A said that students are involved in budget planning and continued by saying that "it's critical that students actively participate in the process."

At the U of A, the presidents of the undergraduate and graduate students' unions sit on several committees that see the budget, as well as the university's board of governors, who approves the budget. There is also a student-at-large position on the board.

Canada lacks leadership in Libya

WITH BOTH OUR ATTENTION AND THE MEDIA'S focused squarely on the campaign trail for the federal election, it's easy to forget that there's a significant battle going on for control of Libya, a battle with humanitarian consequences that Canada is now involved in.

Some 500 troops were deployed earlier this month to help with the ongoing NATO-led mission in Libya. And without a functioning Canadian government overseeing the show, the excursion runs the risk of flying dangerously off course.

Dubbed Operation Mobile by the military, it's already the second-largest overseas deployment currently on the plate for the Canadian Forces.

With the exception of Afghanistan, the operation is already larger than every other combined. Fighter jets are being sent with all of their ground crews to Italy to attack targets in Libya, while refuelling and reconnaissance aircraft are also being sent to help with logistics and enforce a UN-mandated arms embargo.

But too many questions are left unanswered by our quick deployment. There is currently no defined mission, no end date, no goal to strive for. Are our planes there to prevent Moammar Gadhafi from killing his own people? Or are we deploying forces in order to help rebel forces fighting out of the eastern half of the country? And who will be leading this mission during the month while the government is out of session and the federal campaign is running?

These are questions that need answers. Without them, it's hard to support the continuation of the operation.

International support for the deployment didn't begin to come together until earlier this month when the Arab League called on the United Nations to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya. The UN took the request a step further, asking that member nations "take all measures to protect civilians under threat" while stopping just short of condoning a full-scale invasion.

And while the need to protect the civilian population in Libya is urgent and necessitates an immediate reaction, if clear goals aren't laid out, we could see what military experts call "mission creep." What started out as preventing Gadhafi from moving in on civilian targets has already morphed into an attack force hammering government soldiers on behalf of the rebels.

What comes after that is the question. We've already started acting as the de facto air force for the rebels. Without any political oversight or some sort of end-game in mind, it's easy to see that things could easily get out of hand. No one has articulated a proper finale to the whole Libyan excursion.

The problem is compounded in Canada, where our fearless political leaders have decided to take a full month to beat each other about the head with ridiculous allegations and generally ignore the day-to-day running of the country.

Someone in Ottawa needs to come out and say how long our troops will be engaged in Libya and address the question regarding the overall extent of the mission.

If the UN is unable or unwilling to give a timeline for the mission, our political leadership should give us a solid timeframe and end goal. Our troops deserve that much.

JUSTIN BELL
Managing Editor

Electoral options

So many parties
Yet no real choices this year
Let's all vote Pirate

MATT HIRJI
Pirate Editor



ROSS VINCENT

letters TO THE eds

STAND welcomes student involvement for Sudan

In the midst of swift changes throughout North and South Sudan, violence is on the rise. Satellite images of burning villages and devastated homes are just another indication of international failure in maintaining a sustainable peace. On January 9, 2011, the referendum confirmed a split between the South and North. Since then, there has been clear evidence of violations of human rights and escalating violence, not only in the border region between the North and South, but also in Darfur. The promise of "never again" fades away as violence in Darfur looms on the horizon.

There was unprecedented international attention during the South Sudan referendum, but it all seems superficial when it comes down to protecting people after the referendum. Rebel groups like the Justice and Equality Movement, Sudan Liberation Army, and others have been in conflict with Sudan's government for years. The cost has been countless innocent civilians, and yet, these issues lack appropriate attention, and are overshadowed by international politics. The reoccurrence of the international community's negligence appears to have proved yet another opportunity for lasting

peace in Darfur and South/North Sudan to have been ignored.

Students at the University of Alberta can help alleviate the situation in Darfur and South/North Sudan by contacting the Canadian government to request them to lead a meaningful peace process in the region in order to maintain security for the Sudanese people. Canada, with the help of the international community, should engage various rebel groups and the government of Sudan in a series of negotiations for a diplomatic solution for peace in the region. Canada should also assist in keeping Darfur as an integral part of these negotiations to ensure that peace in Darfur is a priority for the international community.

Visit www.standcanada.org for more details, email writing assistance, and more info on the 1-800-Genocid(e) hotline.

ELAUNA BOUTWELL
President, U of A Chapter, Stand
Canada

APIRG needs to live up to its non-partisan claim

An open letter to APIRG,

I was recently walking by your office in HUB and noticed, to my dismay, but not surprise, that you had posters advertising the events surrounding Israeli Apartheid Week. I find this to be symptomatic of the bias present within your organization, an organization may I add that is funded by students of

the University of Alberta and claims to be "non-partisan."

I think that, at least in concept, APIRG is a good idea. Our society needs to produce students who have an informed understanding of society. However, in practice, APIRG has become a partisan organization, only supporting projects that propagate the ideology of the board.

Groups and events supported by APIRG include: the Palestinian Solidarity Network, Greenpeace, Deep Green Resistance and frequent events that are, I surmise, highly critical of the oil sands.

This is, I gather, not a new issue either. Reading excerpts of a newsletter published in 2005, one read about the "Western chauvinists" and how in the capitalist system, which is motivated by "greed," there is little concern for "labour rights and the environment." Now, I have no qualms with any of these groups existing, or for that matter, being funded; I take issue with the obvious political motivation behind the funding. If there was some sort of balance practiced by the board, I would have no problem.

Further, the ideology being promoted is not representative of the student body, in its entirety, at the University of Alberta. Yet, we all fund APIRG. Now, one can argue that these fees are optional; however, being aware of the overall apathy of the student body, I feel this is a weak argument. The fees are small enough that most will not notice or care, yet large enough to allow APIRG to continue to function.

So in closing, I would like to reiterate that I have no problem with the views being promoted by APIRG, lest I be labelled a bigot, merely the lack of ideological balance demonstrated by an organization that relies on a diverse student population for funding.

DAVE JONES
Arts I

from THE web

Catholic schools only a little religious

RE: ("Catholic schools shouldn't be only option," Jordan Ching, March 24)

As a person who went to Catholic school for many years, I would like to point out a specific point that the School Act says. "Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, are made accessible to students, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises".

It does not say that it teaches Catholic values, rather makes them accessible and available to students. I never witnessed a teacher in my schools force a student to participate in a Catholic practice, or not allow them to disagree with something

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 10

The never-ending advantages of being an asshole

DARCY
ROPCHAN

“If I’m walking down the street listening to my iPod and some guy stops me to ask for directions or begs me to call an ambulance because he’s been shot, I pretend I don’t see him, turn up the volume, and keep on walking. I’m trying to Tik Tok with Ke\$ha here; I’m not the fucking Yellow Pages.”

People nowadays are too damn nice. It’s like Louis Armstrong’s “It’s a Wonderful World” has come to life. “I see friends shaking hands, saying, ‘How do you do?’ They’re really saying, ‘I love you.’” It makes me want to puke.

Back in the old days, life was governed by the principle of survival of the fittest. You had to be mean and keen to survive. Unfortunately along the way, a jobless hippy named Jesus Christ taught everyone the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Bullshit. I say do unto others before they do it to you. That’s the asshole’s golden rule.

You may be wondering if I’m qualified to be giving lessons on the fine art of assholery. Don’t worry, I can assure you I’ve been an asshole all my life. But just in case you still need convincing, let me give you my credentials. First, I rarely, if ever, hold the door open for people, even when their hands are full. I didn’t get to where I am today by

holding doors open and letting people walk all over me, taking advantage of my good graces. If you can’t open the door yourself, you don’t need to be in the building that badly.

Second, if I’m walking down the street listening to my iPod and some guy stops me to ask for directions or begs me to call an ambulance because he’s been shot, I pretend I don’t see him, turn up the volume, and keep on walking. I’m trying to Tik Tok with Ke\$ha here; I’m not the fucking Yellow Pages.

Third, and most importantly, I never, ever give up my seat on the bus for mothers with small children or the elderly. Listen, grandma, when you start taking a full course load and carry around a 500-pound bag of textbooks with you, then we’ll talk. Until then, move it on back. Your made-up excuses of “my arthritis hurts” and “I think I’m having a heart attack” are irritating me.

Need a practical reason? To be an

asshole is to be efficient. I can’t count all the time I save in my day by not saying please and thank you to people. Save your breath and energy. Your waitress isn’t going to remember that you thanked her when she brought you your pasta. She will, however, remember if you called her by an unsavory nickname when she came to take your drink order. It’s important to make an impression on people.

Being a dick shaves minutes off my commute to class. How many times have you been trying to rush through HUB Mall, only be stuck behind a bunch of slow walkers and couples holding hands? When Romeo and Juliet are in front of me blocking the way with their loving grasp, I just yell “Red Rover” and burst through that hand-holding bond like nobody’s business. Not only does it establish my dominance and show them that I’m too important to stand behind them and witness their love, but it also ruins the romantic moment they



MATT HIRJI

THE ASSHOLE’S GOLDEN RULE Pre-emptive attacks are always necessary.

were enjoying. And that makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside. Even if I’m not hurrying, I still push people out of the way as if I am. After all, I want a seat at the back of the class, so I can sleep.

If you find yourself wanting to be an asshole, but have been nice all your life, it’s never too late to change. It’s all about baby steps. Laugh too loud in a movie theatre. Scare small children by pretending to kidnap them. Tell your

girlfriend or wife what you really think about her new hairstyle. There’s no limit to the ways you can be a dick. Nature is full of assholes — just the other day I saw a squirrel beat up a smaller squirrel for his stash of nuts. Then the wind blew over a frail old lady with a walker. Later, it began to rain on a bunch of kids in the park, ruining their day.

And I thought to myself, what a wonderful world.

Straight male gamers aren’t really facing horrible discrimination

JORDAN
CHING

a male and female Hawke, save for the princely heterosexual Sebastian. This push for inclusiveness is admirable, and BioWare is often lauded as being a driving force in making gaming more enjoyable for a wide spectrum of people.

One player took issue with this and took to BioWare’s forums to decry the neglect of the “Straight Male Gamer” that, they claimed, made up the core demographic for the game. The poster even went so far as to claim to speak on behalf of this wronged demographic in saying that there should be a “no homosexuality” option in the game. The post borders on unbelievable, and I felt insulted that this person claimed to represent my views on the subject. Obviously, their fragile and narrow-minded psyche needed protection from the frightening alternative viewpoints present in the game.

In response, the lead writer of *Dragon Age II* David Gaider lambasted the poster and dismissed the narrow-minded asshat’s comments. Many people thought this was a commendable thing to do, and it was refreshing to see someone who was trolling get a healthy dose of reality. But it seems that there are still others who feel that BioWare’s crimes don’t end there.

Over the weekend, a petition to have Gaider fired was started for “stereotyping gays.” Gaider, the petition claims, portrays homosexuals in *Dragon Age II* as being “unable to be normal people and think nothing about sex.” I’m not sure what game the person who wrote the petition was playing, but I don’t think it’s the same one I was. I seem to remember that one of my male companions made a pass at my male character, but it was only once, and he didn’t broach the subject again. Compared to Isabella, one of the female companions in the game, he’s a damn saint. The other possible male-male love interest never even made a move on me.

Both of these cases exhibit the sense of entitlement that seems to be the trademark of every gamer troll out there. It seems that these people are only capable of pissing and moaning every time they feel that they have been personally screwed over, that their specific ideals weren’t represented, or that their delicate sensibilities have been offended. Here’s a tip, free of charge: lighten the hell up. Nobody is out to purposely piss you off, so grow up and accept that the game industry isn’t going to bend over backwards to please your every whim.

THREELINESFREE

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

Honestly guys and gals, I LOVE fridays. why? Well, cause’ that means the weekend, and FUN!

I gotta lube up before linear algebra final, cuz I’m gonna get raped.

Sometimes I want to yell GET A ROOM at random couples.

Atlas will shrug!

Has anyone ever noticed that at the U of A, everything is standardized except for quality of instruction?

Honest to fuck. Class is not the food-court.

I think someone turned up the volume on the ambient market sounds that play every ten minutes outside of Tory 1-113...

Re: ANTHR101 brown sessions jacket guy....

No, you do not know who I am:)

Bigger IS better

Anal is gross. My boyfriend doesn’t like it cause it’s gross and he has a large penis.

I just lost a class to a fire drill. All fire drills do is make you take the real thing less seriously. Case-in-point: I took the long, slow way out of the building. There is no way to tell a drill from the real thing!

Happy Birthday Marine!!!

From the crazy Froggy girls

Test your might! MENTAL KORN-BAT!

we made the snow boobs... you’re welcome!

I am totally in favor of a “get your shit together” day. I think that would be better than a fall reading week.

Formal Fridays: Suit up!

I hope you people don’t drive the way you walk.

Any girls around campus like guys with long hair?

I’m in love with my biol 207 TA. You’re so smart and sexy, I just can’t help it.

If the guy in “Faces of the UofA” who was also the top left pic on the front page (March 29) is gay, he needs to contact me at once. I’ll be monitoring TLF for a while...

Guy in my Phil 217 course: Stop sitting like such a cocky asshole when you open your trap. You’re in school, not being interviewed on Jay Leno.

University: where students are expected to be perfect, and students expect the University to fuck up.

To people bitching about the people who bitch in tlf, this is a place to bitch without consequences, so deal and stop bitching... bitches.

Yes, it was a waste of money to put coloured lights in HUB but it’s an even bigger waste if you never turn them on. Don’t be embarrassed.

Hey U of A, I know we’re broke, but would it really be that difficult to get some working clocks? Or just reset the clocks that have stopped in Tory?

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we’ll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).

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- Winston Churchill



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LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
they were teaching. As parents are trying to give their children “freedom of religion,” I believe they are taking away that very right. If the children are not exposed to any religion at all, their choice is made for them. What are the parents scared of? That their children will be exposed to something occult or evil? Or that they will become involved in something they do not understand? I believe that instead of running away from religion, they should strive to understand what the Catholic Church is trying to teach their children and what exactly they have against it.

“BRIANNE”
Via Internet

Community has to deal with parking plans

RE: (“Campus Saint-Jean parking lot faces local opposition,” Simon Yackulic, March 24)

The residents complain that students park on the street, then they complain about a parking lot. They need to decide if they want one or the other. NIMBY attitudes need to be ignored.

If residents in the area are against non-residents parking in their area they should be required to attach a special label to their vehicle banning them from

street parking in all other neighbourhoods. What’s that? That’s not fair?

They bought a home next to a post-secondary campus, did they really not think there would be people driving to school?

“MARK”
Via Internet

The origin of sexual orientation needs more research

RE: (“Panel examines role of LGBTQ in organized religion,” Meryl Friedland, March 24)

Nothing emerging from Christian fundamentalist bigotry is tolerable, but not all persons who question whether ‘gayness’ is congenitally predetermined or not — or is a mix of these causes — is a “mean-spirited” bigot. I’m a lifelong progressive and I’ve always supported the full citizenship and legal enfranchisement of all my gay fellow earthlings. Always. Completely and without equivocation. But I still question, in the name of science, whether there is solid, unimpeachable evidence pointing to a genetic determinant to gayness that is supported by clear, peer evaluated research.

This is quoted from the entry on “Biology and Sexual Orientation” in

Wikipedia:

“No simple, single cause for sexual orientation has been conclusively demonstrated, but research suggests that it is by a combination of genetic, hormonal, and environmental influences, with biological factors involving a complex interplay of genetic factors and the early uterine environment.”

Of course there’s a compelling interest for some to desire the confirmation of ‘gay-at-birth.’ From the Wiki article:

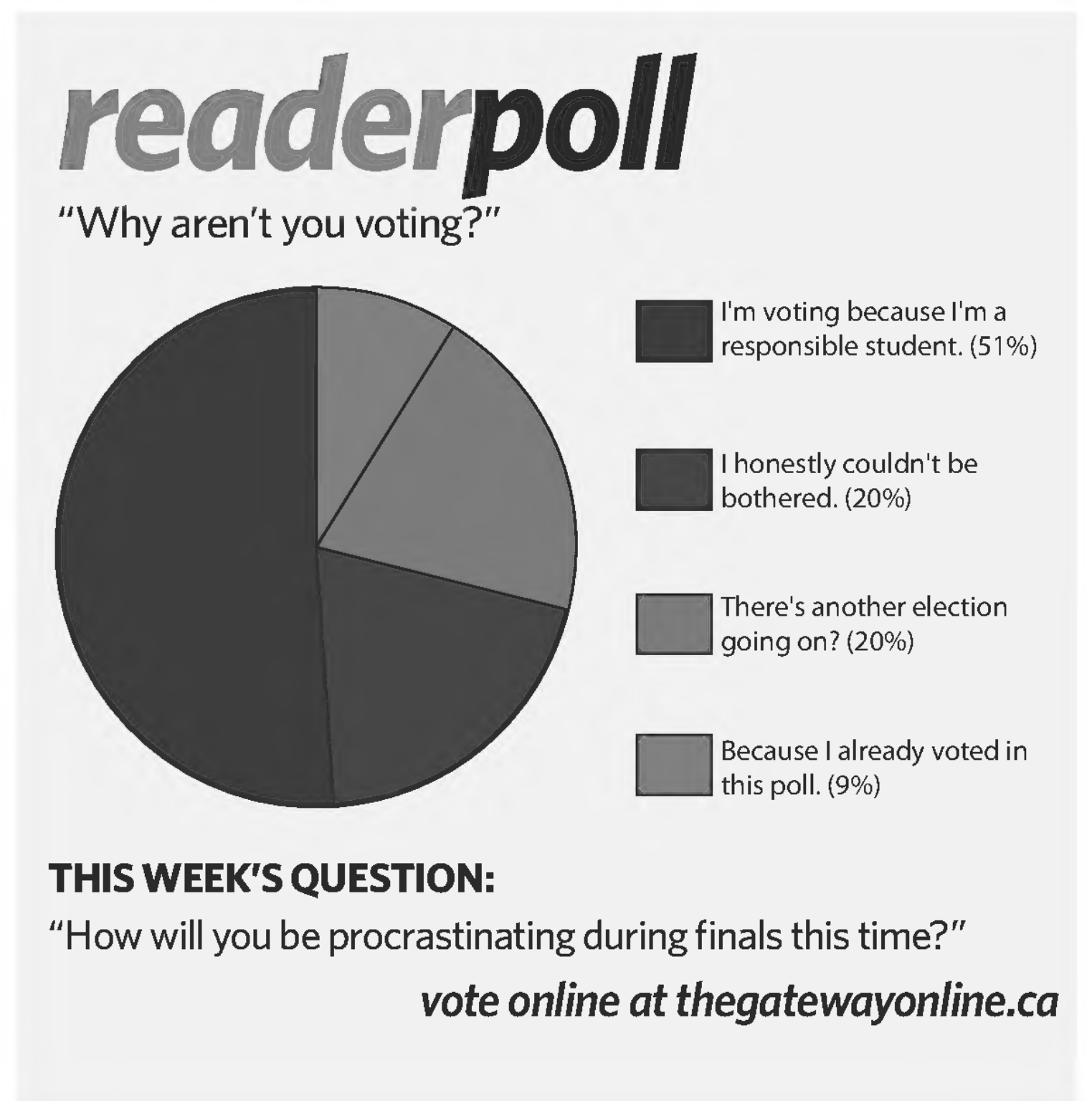
“Evidence that sexual orientation is biologically determined (therefore perhaps immutable in the legal sense) would strengthen the legal case for heightened anti-discriminating laws on that basis.”

I welcome advances in genetic research that will put this gray area to light. In the meantime, I’ll continue to treat my fellow human beings with the deference and respect that’s their due regardless of their erotic leanings in affairs of the heart and mind.

“LARY NINE”
Via Internet

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The Gateway reserves the right to



edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program,

and year of study to be considered for publication.

The Gateway will not print letters if bribed. That said, we're big fans of free food, so any donations should be brought to SUB 3-04. We like chicken curry, bacon, tropical smokies, and green onion cakes.

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THE GATEWAY

Literary Contest Winners

SHORT FICTION (1,500 WORDS OR LESS)

“Raven’s Story”

by Andrew Thompson



Raven stopped walking. He stared up at the sky and spread his arms. Opened his eyes. His mouth. Let the bitter cold rain-water sluice over him, washing away some of the slime of the city.

The greasy sky swirled lazily, weaving in and out of the grey buildings.

Raven was tired. Of the city. Of his life. Of himself. He ran one hand through his long, wet, jet-black hair, flicked water onto the ground. The dampened hand crawled to the safety of his dry, ratty pocket, taking comfort in the razor blade. His one-way ticket. His get-out-of-jail-free card.

And he could use it any time.

But not tonight. No, tonight he had a little bit of money. He thought of the first hit that would come from the syringe and smiled warmly, the ghost of childlike ignorance sprawling across his grizzled face. He started trembling gently.

Soon everything would be alright. But not yet. Not yet. NOT YET. DEAR GOD PLEASE STOP THE TREMBLING OH GOD I CAN’T TAKE IT. He flipped open the plastic top of his cup and hurriedly guzzled down the last of his coffee, the bitterness anchoring him to reality.

Ok. There.

Everything’s fine. Tonight, everything would be okay. Tonight, and tomorrow. And tomorrow, and maybe even tomorrow.

He would take the medicine his veins screamed for. Perhaps find a body with which to share apathetic warmth.

And he’d get a glance, just a little taste, of something he’d lost years ago. He smiled numbly and kept trudging.

* * *

A little boy named Raven swaggered down the street, leaving the late afternoon’s dust trailing in his wake. On his tiny head was a huge, badly frayed straw sombrero that kept falling down over his face. Over his eyes was an expensive black silk handkerchief — one he had permanently borrowed from his mother — replete with two oversized mismatched eyeholes and a tattered length of twine holding the ends together at the back of his head. In one of his grimy fists were a few coins.

He stopped to squint at the angry red sun, then flashed a gap-toothed grin and started humming the Lone Ranger theme song to himself in gleeful falsetto.

He was on a mission.

And this was a mission so brave — so bold — that John Wayne and Superman would have both fainted dead away, had either of them been asked to go in his stead. He was going to the store to get hamburger for dinner. Alone.

It had taken all his six years of wisdom and bravery to get the quarter mile from his parents’ trailer on the

reservation to the suburban outskirts of the small town. He had hiked through tall grasses and down quiet residential streets, clutching a beloved stick to his chest like a rifle, shooting Indians and Not-sees dead.

He was The Lone Ranger.

But even the Lone Ranger felt a twinge of trepidation when a small, shiny car sidled up to the curb, its engine purring like a hungry stray cat.

* * *

That morning, it had hit him, as it had many times before.

Raven was killing himself. He had to stop. He had to change. But couldn’t they just see that he wanted to make good?

So he cried. He swore to himself to stop using drugs. He prayed to God, bared his soul.

He howled for forgiveness, reciting tattered fragments of a long-neglected prayer in a long-forgotten language borne upon his uncle’s sweet booze breath. He pledged with all his heart.

And he meant every word of it.

As he had all the other times.

Then he dried his bloodshot eyes and dragged himself out of his cheap townhouse and went to work.

* * *

Raven came to a stop, suddenly feeling very small. Nobody on the poor reservation drove a shiny car like that. Not even the rich white people in the town drove cars like that. Raven stared, his thumb embedded firmly in between his chapped lips, while something bitter and green tugged at the back of his mind.

It would be many years before the small boy understood the meaning of envy.

The car’s tinny engine stopped grumbling, and the tinted passenger window rolled down.

The first thing Raven saw was a great quantity of wiry white hair, the texture of reindeer moss ooze its way over the windowsill. Two hard cobalt eyes followed, nestled in gray, wrinkled leather. Raven gawked. His finger, with a diligent mind of its own, began excavating his tiny nose.

The man stretched his thin lips away from slimy yellow teeth. The boy stared for a few seconds, thinking that perhaps this was a skoocom — the little-boy-eating bear-man born from the sour fumes of his uncle’s stories. Then he realized the man was smiling.

Raven smiled back uncertainly.

The man, apparently encouraged by this, withdrew his hairy face with alarming speed, and barked knife-edged words into the car.

A second later, he whipped his shaggy head back around, and smiled again. A long, pale arm, mottled with black spots and little blue webs, slithered out of the car, clutching an ice cream cone.

Trembling with equal parts excitement and trepidation, Raven’s chubby little hands shot out and took the proffered gift. The man withdrew his hand, his face still wearing the same grin.

Raven looked up at the strange man, looked down at the

melting goblet of ice cream, and dug in. A long black telephoto lens inched its way out of the car and blinked quietly at the little boy eating ice cream.

Then the tinted window rolled back up and the shiny little car pulled away from the curb.

Raven didn’t know that the man was an acclaimed European photographer on vacation, or that he would win several prestigious awards for the photograph “Little Brown Zorro Eats White Ice Cream.”

Nor did he know, as he walked away eating his ice cream, that he had dropped his coins.

* * *

Raven stood quietly outside of the drug house, his body tense, as he listened to the city around him. What was he doing? Who was he?

He pondered those questions as he massaged a slender roll of crisp paper money.

He looked up at the quiet moon, smelled the musty moisture in the air. Took a few bold steps forward, pushed aside a flimsy metal screen door, and stepped out of the night, into the gloom.

The skinny little German guy — who called himself Glossy — sat in a corner, rocking himself back and forth, muttering anxiously. He jerked his head back, stared at the ceiling, his eyes wide and glassy, as two weak streams of dark blood carved tracks through the white powder on his upper lip.

Somebody sneezed, and Raven jerked his head towards the sound. A small figure was seated directly in front of a television, watching two masked cartoon men engaged in a silent gunfight.

Raven took a few more steps into the house. A tiny head swivelled around. Raven looked sadly at the child, his brow furrowed.

* * *

Raven skipped happily down the street, the cold sticky treat coating his throat and his grimy fingers in equal measure. It was a while before he realized the coins were gone.

Panic fluttered through his chest as he dropped his ice cream cone and stumbled awkwardly down the sidewalk, looking for the distinctive ruddy glint of the coins he dropped.

His head whipped around, and the sombrero fell over his eyes. He tore it from his head, letting it fall to the ground with a dry rasp. The awkward eye-holes of his mask restricted his vision and he tore it off, letting it flutter to the pavement.

They were gone, he realized with a pang of fear and sorrow. He looked back at the ice cream, melting sullenly into the sidewalk, and started crying.

Blubbing, Raven was the Lone Ranger no more. He stumbled for home a sad little boy.

* * *

Raven strode through the night, clutching a small, shivering bundle to his chest.

“Where we goin’, Rav’n?” asked the child.

“Somewhere better,” said the man.

“Kay,” said the child, and went to sleep sucking its thumb.

“Ofelia”

by Ellen Keith



Ofelia chose a salmon-coloured dress for the wedding. Salmon because the ladies at her Zumba class said that the colour flattered her skin, made it shine like the copper coat of a lynx, because the priest gave her an extra wafer when she wore that dress to communion, but most of all, because salmon would clash with Chloe’s fiery hair.

Chloe’s skin was chalky white and dusted with freckles. The spots seemed to multiply daily and Ofelia imagined that parts of her bronzed son had rubbed off onto Chloe’s cheeks. Javier could darken her face with his kisses, but that wouldn’t make her any more Mexican.

She was Irish. And not even a proper one. While Javier wore a cross pendant, her neck was bare. Ofelia searched Chloe’s purse for the Rosary, but instead found lipstick. And birth control.

Ofelia didn’t just want a daughter-in-law; she wanted a daughter. A Mexican one, or at least a Catholic. Her chin had rumped into a frown the first time the word “daughter-in-law” slid off Chloe’s tongue.

“Ay, Dios mío,” she had muttered.

“Tranquila, Mamá,” Javier said, tucking his fiancée under his arm, “Calm down.”

Ofelia knew it was her fault. She’d urged Javier to study abroad so that he could get a job with a powerful company.

She’d lined up some eligible girls for his return — ones who went to Bible Study each Tuesday, prepared the most savoury *molé* sauce, and had enough curves to ensure a brood of healthy grandchildren.

He returned with an engineering degree and a fiancée who could cook only boiled potatoes.

One afternoon, Chloe stood in silence at the threshold of the kitchen. Ofelia beckoned her in and pointed to a bowl on the counter. It was filled with egg-shaped balls of dough.

“Tor-ti-llas.”

Ofelia kneaded, rolled, pressed, and fried the dough into a golden disc. Chloe mimicked her, but her tortilla sagged, warped, and fractured. Ofelia sighed.

Later, Javier embraced Ofelia.

“Thank you for helping Chloe today. She’s trying.”

The wind teased the hem of her dress as she stood at the edge of the jetty, staring out at the ocean. She heard the clamour of Irish voices. Chloe’s relatives had discovered the swim-up bar.

The wedding canopy stood naked in front of her. In an hour, the resort staff would dress it with ribbons and garlands for the reception. The ceremony was in the chapel; she’d refused to see her son marry without a priest.

The soft patter of bare feet on grass interrupted her thoughts. Chloe carried the train of her wedding gown as she walked, and her auburn hair spilled across her face in loose curls.

“Are you ready, Mamá? It’s time.”

Ofelia was silent.

“Mamá?”

Chloe tried again.

“Your dress, it’s beautiful,” she pointed, and then hesitated. “It’s — *muy bonito*.”

Ofelia reached out and lowered the lace trim of Chloe’s veil over her face, concealing her freckles and pale skin. Then, she turned and followed the path towards the chapel.

“Sweet Summer”

by Kathy Gould



It was a busy summer day. Mother was running back and forth from the house to the yard. The neighbourhood children were over, all nine of them. In and out they went in all directions; all calling for help from Mother. Jenny was asking for her bike seat lowered so she could ride with some of the other children. She was the youngest in the group. The bicycle was a hand me down from her older brother. Jenny insisted she was ready to try it. The oldest children were riding the cul-de-sac racetrack.

It would be Jenny’s only chance to play with them, before they went off to something more dangerous.

Jenny pleaded. Mother paused. Fixing a saddle seemed too challenging and consuming a task. Mother rubbed her forehead and tugged softly at her ponytail before committing another task. Jenny whined.

Mother’s decision grew easier with each sway of Jenny’s cries. She would get out the tool box and attempt to satisfy Jenny’s pleas. As Mother entered the house, she was interrupted by wailing pleas from others. She could see that they saw her hands were free and she was unaccompanied. Liam wanted the water pressure on the sprinkler adjusted. Tomas and Morris needed dry clothes. Another few needed snacks and specific toys. Mother fulfilled the easy tasks and explained to the others that they will be next in line, after Jenny of course. Jenny waited. She found ways to entertain herself with the gravel at her feet. She called intermittently in Mother’s direction.

As time passed, Jenny’s patience began to swell and her voice began to strain with nagging appeal. Mother quickly responded, moving away from the other’s with ratchet in hand to carry out the task quicker than usual. With each turn on the bolt, the ratchet hit the corner of the saddle causing the ratchet to slip. She bent over to get a better view of the bolt. In the background Mother could hear screams. A disagreement or possibly someone was hurt. Jenny too, was pacing back and forth as she wondered why her mother was taking so long on what looked like a simple adjustment. Mother’s blood pressure was rising. Her mind digressing as she began to place herself in recollections of a less frantic moment to tame her mind. In the midst of her dreamy state, she calmed down. She felt pressure on her cheek. The ratchet had hit her right brow bone and cheekbone. At first it was the sound of the ratchet striking her face that caught her attention. Then the heat of the blood rushing to her cheek. Dropping the ratchet, she clenched her face. The pressure seemed to help to take away the pain. Jenny saw the whole thing. They ran to the freezer box together. Jenny felt like she was to blame. They sat down on the porch. Mother consoling Jenny while holding ice to her face. Over the next week Mother’s eye produce new colours while she tried to hide these under thick makeup and the frames of her glasses.

SHORT SHORT FICTION

(300 WORDS OR LESS)

“Reasonable Love”

by Mitchell Hopkins



“But Darling, you’re the reason I started smoking.”

“That’s not funny.” She puts on her black heels and slips out the door without pausing. This is the girl he loves. He followed her to Anchorage so she could take a position at the new state gallery.

This is the girl that loves him.

He sits at the kitchen table, still facing the doorway but now looking down at his coffee cup. He racks his mind, trying to think of the thing he had to do today.

It gets boring at home. The local newspaper still hasn’t called back; he managed to get a position at the front desk but the process seems to take forever. And what to do for lunch? They usually meet at 12:30 but she has a meeting today.

He thinks about how fast it all happened. She cried at the wedding. He passed out in the public washroom and the resort staff carried him out. And here they are! He recalls all the reasons she told him that she loved him. Reasonable love. What would that look like? Probably like running a business, something he knows nothing about. Finally he remembers the thing: he was supposed to go to the bank to open a joint savings account. For some reason the thought of it makes him sick to the stomach. He chooses instead to lounge around the house till four.

Reasonable love isn’t very fun ...

“A Proper Burial”

by Andrew Thompson



Brenda staggered back from the garbage can, looking at the fresh bite wound in her hand with numb fascination. Two nearly bloodless rows of puncture wounds stood in stark relief, arranged in a tiny half-circle.

The small zombie thrashed inside the metal trash can, its milky white eyes locked on hers. It finally knocked the heavy metal bin over with a clang, spilling itself onto the pavement. It struggled to its feet, clutching a gnawed chicken bone in one hand. The child had been three or four when it died.

The creature had unknowingly set a clever trap; attracted by the stench of rotting meat, it had climbed into the can, burying itself as it searched for food. When Brenda had pushed the mass of garbage down, intending to make room for another bag, it had bitten her.

She tried to feel hatred for the zombie — and failed as it staggered closer, dropping its bone and reaching for her beseechingly.

She drew her hunting knife and knelt, placing herself at eye level with the child. With one hand, she grabbed its neck, holding it at arm’s length. It struggled feebly.

With tears blurring her vision, Brenda spoke words she hadn’t spoken for years, “I forgive you for what you have done, and I hope your soul finds peace.”

With that, she buried the blade to the hilt in the creature’s head. It instantly went limp.

The city’s garbage men would have disposed of the zombie with the other trash, but she would give this child a proper burial instead.

She cradled the wasted body in her arms, remembering the child she had lost so many years ago, and strode to the house to say goodbye to her family.

“Hail”

by Harley Morison



He came with a shower of hail. Out of nowhere the sky darkened and the air filled with tiny, destructive bullets of ice. The man, short and unshaven, grey and determined, stepped out of a hidden alley when everyone else began to take cover. The hail rattled to the ground mercilessly—more annoying than damaging—but the gruff, determined man didn’t seem to mind. The hail was increasing in size and frequency, and it was seconds before the tiny projectiles that had poked at the pavement was now piercing through awnings and umbrellas. The street was almost entirely vacant. As everyone else ran into buildings, the man continued into the street without flinching at the sharp ice which cut at the cheeks and scalp.

It started to pile on the ground in gross, misshapen heaps. The pale, white piles strewn all over the street reeked of a dismal and foreboding air; like something out of a cemetery. The man went on and the sky darkened and a chilling breeze drifted in and the hail thickened and the street became empty all at once.

Empty, except for the man and someone else: a girl. No more than twenty-five. Nondescript. Quiet. Plain. Desperately trying to escape the street and the hail, but with no success.

Blood trickled from her head. She gasped and ran. He ran too. She didn’t make it. In the street, something shattered. No one saw.

No one heard. No one cared.

There was nothing now;

he left with the

shower of

hail.

THE GATEWAY *Photo*



Brandon Mewhort



Jessica van Soest

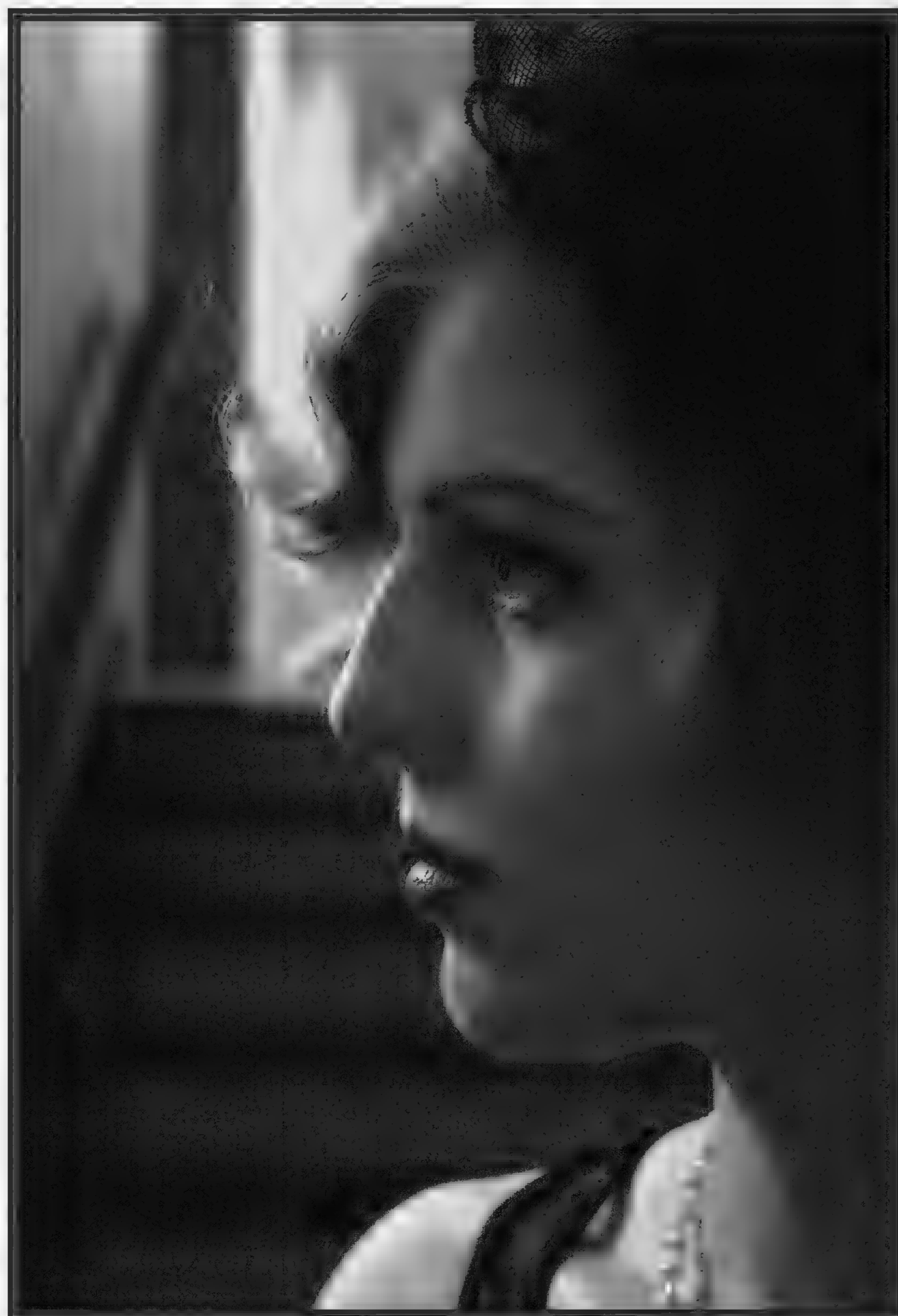


Photo Contest Winners

HONOURABLE MENTIONS



Jackson Hinton



Adam Gulyas



Ellen Keith

The Gateway would like to thank all those who submitted works to the Literary and Photo contests and we extend our congratulations to the winners.

Contemplating Suicide



The Gateway's mental health series

Written by Alexandria Eldridge, Simon Yackulic,
and Ryan Bromsgrove

Illustrated by Anthony Goertz

Beth is like any other student on campus, going to class and hanging out with her friends. She's in her fifth year of her Secondary Education degree, specializing in English. But Beth (whose name has been changed to protect her identity) has struggled with bipolar disorder — something she's had to deal with throughout her entire university career. She's also attempted suicide when she was a teenager.

"I think the biggest thing I've come across at university is that it's really hard to explain my disorder in such a way that I'm not stigmatized," she says. "And the stigma that goes along with mental illness and with suicide is huge. And people feel as though they're less of a person for admitting that they need help."

Bipolar disorder, formerly known as manic-depressive disorder, describes a mental condition where the chemicals in the brain that regulate emotion and feelings become imbalanced, causing significant changes in mood and energy. Sometimes Beth's attitude is elevated, and she has hypomania, where she becomes extremely focused on one thing, while others get neglected. At other times, Beth's mood will drop, putting her in a depressive state, which is when she's most at risk for suicidal thoughts.

"I get really focused on a project, and it isn't necessarily schoolwork, and so I can't concentrate. I think the biggest thing is in university, there's been more pressure, and there isn't as much leeway. And if I need to get that assignment done, it has to get done no matter how I'm feeling," she says.

But Beth is up front with her professors about her mental illness, and although she doesn't usually open up to her fellow students, she believes suicide and mental illness is something we have to talk about as a society.

"In order for me to be open about my mental illness, I need to have a community that understands what it really is and not the media stereotype version," she says. "When people think of suicide attempts, they think about somebody with a gun against their

“It’s not so much wanting to die as it is a struggle between wanting to live and [not] wanting to deal with the pain that they’re in. A lot of people — and these are the people that then think of suicide — can’t think of any way to get rid of that pain except by ending their life.”

- Shoghi Nikoo

Director, Peer Support Centre

head and they’re contemplating it and they’re writing notes. But the majority of people who commit suicide don’t leave notes and they don’t leave an explanation for their loved ones. It’s not this dramatic moment of decision and, ‘I’m going to set my affairs all in order.’ It’s a moment of quiet desperation, I think.”

Shoghi Nikoo, director of the Peer Support Centre, agrees there are many false impressions surrounding suicide. She says it’s a common misconception that suicide is about wanting to end your life.

“It’s not so much wanting to die as it is a struggle between wanting to live and [not] wanting to deal with the pain that they’re in,” Nikoo says. “A lot of people — and these are the people that then think of suicide — can’t think of any way to get rid of that pain except by ending their life.”

Another notable misconception about suicide is that people who hint about ending their lives are only looking for attention. However, Nikoo says that oftentimes, suicidal comments made jokingly may be serious, and are often a lot more deserving of attention than many people might think.

“A lot of the clues that you get are actually jokes,” Nikoo says. “So somebody will joke about, ‘well, if I’m not here, then this won’t be a big deal,’ or ‘why don’t you just kill me?’ Those are often very subtle clues that the person might be thinking about suicide.”

Located in the lower level of SUB, the Peer Support Centre exists as a way for students in any kind of distress to reach out for help. Somewhere between 13 to 14 per cent of its clients report having thoughts of suicide. One of the important things that they do is to redefine suicide, and then directly address it.

“We’re not afraid of asking the person if they are having thoughts of suicide. A lot of people are afraid that if they ask them, then they might be planting the idea or encouraging them to go in that direction [...] and that’s simply just not the case. Talking about suicide or asking people if they’re having thoughts of suicide will not lead them to thinking about it more than they already are.”

Cases can occur where somebody commits suicide seemingly out of the blue. But this is actually fairly rare, Nikoo says. Often, friends and family members simply aren’t familiar with the signs.

Giving away valued gifts, no longer taking pleasure in things that they used to, isolating themselves, not attending class, poor hygiene, and a change in diet or sleeping patterns are

all other signs that someone might be having thoughts of suicide. If somebody does suspect a friend or family member is contemplating suicide, besides asking directly and being willing to support that person, one of the things that they should do is turn to help as well.

“It’s basically impossible to support somebody without having support yourself. So whether that’s talking to friends and family, or coming to a center like the Peer Support Centre or phoning the Edmonton Distress Line, getting support yourself is one of the best ways you can support somebody else.”

Getting mental health issues out into the open is of utmost importance, as suicide is far more common than most people think. According to the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention, suicide was the second leading cause of death among people between the ages of 15 and 34 in 2005.

According to the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment, which measures mental health across universities in North America, 81.2 per cent of students had never seriously considered suicide. Of the respondents, 12.6 per cent had considered it in the 12 months prior to the survey being taken, and 7.7 per cent had at some point attempted suicide.

Across Canada, it’s also a major concern. Rates in the country have remained relatively stable, with about 3,600 cases every year between 2003 and 2007, which are the latest years that Statistics Canada has data available.

Students’ Union President Nick Dehod said that suicide is directly related to the greater spectrum of mental health problems that plague university students.

“I’m not going to discount the fact that suicide is a very serious thing, but it’s part of a greater problem,” Dehod says. “It’s not about suicide specifically, but it’s about preventing people from getting into the sort of situation where suicide starts to become something they would consider, and I think that’s indicative of a larger problem — how are people connected to the campus, how are people supported, and how are you making sure they have the tools they need.”

For this reason, Dehod has made mental health awareness a key focus of his presidency. He has also pushed for a fall reading week, which he hopes will give students a break in November from the stresses of university life. Student Counselling Services, which provides support for undergraduate students, has hired more counsellors this year, though Dehod

notes that it has also seen an upswing in use and he would like to see a larger increase in counsellors.

“There’s still just a general lack of understanding of what mental health is, and what depression and anxiety do to students. There’s still this mentality at times that university is tough, and you’re going to have times that you’re stressed out, but that’s not necessarily a good reason to just accept things [...] There is stress and anxiety related to going to school, but it shouldn’t become debilitating.”

Dehod says that undergraduates face a number of stressful situations that can cause their mental state to spiral out of control. Students are worried about finding employment when they graduate, and many are living away from home and lack the support network that guided them when they were younger. Such stressful situations in university are made worse by a generation that is too hard on itself, something reflective of larger societal issues, he says, noting that today, “more is just demanded of people.”

“People are so hard on themselves all the time. What continually comes up with all these mental health issues is, ‘it’s your fault because you’re not budgeting your time efficiently, it’s your fault because your

grandfather died, and that’s the first time you’ve experienced death, so it’s your fault you can’t handle it.’ That’s an issue. People are too hard on themselves.”

Beth says that she knows that she will always deal with suicide in her life. It’s a reality accompanying her mental illness, but she says that it can get better.

She hasn’t attempted suicide since she was 13, but Beth knows it will always be at the back of her mind if she’s having a particularly bad day. But she stresses that building a support network and being able to confide in loved ones who will help without judgment is the best way to continue living a healthy life.

“As an educated adult, I know that it’s not a good option and I need to change my thought patterns [...] but I know that suicidal thoughts aren’t going to go away magically. And it is something I’m going to struggle with. And just because somebody is suicidal doesn’t mean that their life isn’t going to change or that they can’t get better. And I think that’s the biggest thing people need to understand.”

There are a number of resources on campus and in the city for people who need help. From anxiety and depression, to addiction, suicidal thoughts or other mental conditions, the first place to turn is the University Health Centre (UHC) on the second floor of SUB. They are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the school year. There are a number of general practitioners on staff, and they can recommend other options.

Student Counselling Services, across from UHC on the second floor of SUB, has drop-in hours throughout the week. Check out the UHC website at www.uhc.ualberta.ca.

The Students’ Union runs the Peer Support Centre in the basement of SUB, 0-30N. They have drop-in hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the fall and winter semesters. You can also reach them by phone at (780) 492-HELP (4657). The City of Edmonton also runs a Distress Line that can be reached 24 hours a day at (780) 482-HELP (4357).



Matthew Dyck wins Students' Union Award for Excellence

SIWEI CHEN
Student Awards Office

When asked what super villain he would like to be, this year's Students' Union Award for Excellence winner chose Dr. Otto Octavius, or Dock Ock, one of Spiderman's most dangerous opponents. Matthew Dyck, graduating with an Engineering Physics and Nanoengineering Option degree, called Dock Ock an "engineer's dream", especially because he is thinking of working in medical robotics.

The Students' Union Award for Excellence is the Students' Union's most prestigious award. It is only awarded to students in their graduating year who have a minimum grade point average of 3.5, show involvement in extracurricular activities as well as a demonstrated skill in working with others.

Matthew, with a 4.0 GPA, and an extensive extracurricular repertoire, stood out amongst the other applicants.

"In pursuing academic excellence, my piece of advice would be: Everything matters," Matthew said.

He discouraged students from working hard on some assignments and allowing themselves to relax on others, and he stressed the importance of understanding all of the material thoroughly rather than guessing what may or may not be on a test.

"I work really hard. I'm putting in a lot

of time all the time, it seems. So I think my secret is a lot of elbow grease."

Some of his time-management techniques come from David Allen's work-life management system and book, *Getting Things Done*, where Matthew implements some of the techniques of managing his tasks and to-do lists.

However, Matthew noted that it is not possible to give a hundred percent to everything in spite of his desire to do his best, and he cited keeping things in balance as his greatest challenge.

"So I think my secret is a lot of elbow grease."

MATTHEW DYCK
STUDENT AWARD WINNER

"You have to keep your priorities in check. When you're making and investing that effort in some task, make sure you keep it in balance with other things... [and] devoting your time to things that really matter."

Guiding his priorities are a number of people in Matthew's life as well as his faith. Most notably, a had faced a great challenge around the age of thirteen: his mother's fight with cancer.

"Having come through some of those adversities and growing stronger

through them rather than buckling under the pressure, I think that would be a time where I can really look back and say, 'Yeah, I was changed for the better.'"

Because of the difficulties his mother faced, an article on nanotechnology in chemotherapy drug delivery piqued his interest, guiding his career choice to engineering. To further his interest in the field, Matthew began working as a Project Management Coordinator within the MicroSystems Technology Research Initiative (MSTRI) in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta.

Matthew spoke highly of his supervisor, Raymond Lemieux, for being a source of inspiration and a mentor.

"Ray really went out of his way to allow me to draw on his extensive network of contacts, to build my own network of contacts, send me to conferences, allow me to develop new skills and try new things."

Ultimately, Matthew believed that to do anything well, it has to be motivated from within rather than from an external source to achieve excellence.

"I remember something saying, 'If you need someone to get a job done, a slave will do it well, a mercenary will do it better, and a volunteer will outshine them both.' And that has stuck with me."

"[Winning the Students' Union Award for Excellence] is a tremendous honour...I'm humbled because I know



there are a lot of really good students on this campus who have selflessly devoted themselves to many worthy causes and pursued academic excellence and excellence in many areas of life, so to be

selected for this is a great honor."

In the future, Matthew wants to do a Master's degree, and he hopes to work in Alberta in the long term.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AWARD WINNERS!

ALBERTA TREASURY BRANCHES VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

- ✶ Aly Bhatia
- ✶ Darren Liviniuk

BILL SMITH STUDENT MENTORSHIP AWARD

- ✶ Kailey Buller
- ✶ Angela Han

CIBC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AWARD

- ✶ Lu Qiao

CRISTAL MAR MEMORIAL AWARD

- ✶ Saadiq Sumar
- ✶ Mallory Nault

DEAN MORTENSEN AWARD

- ✶ Sarah Howe
- ✶ Annika Palm

DR. RANDY GREGG ATHLETICS AWARD

- ✶ Caitlin Buckell
- ✶ Fiona McCallum

EDO JAPAN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

- ✶ Namrita Amarnani
- ✶ Chia Shen Sow
- ✶ Natasha Kedia
- ✶ Keita Hill
- ✶ Michael Schlegelmilch

EUGENE L. BRODY AWARD

- ✶ Sarah Beck
- ✶ Peter Iglinski

GATEWAY STUDENT JOURNALISM SOCIETY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF EXCELLENCE

- ✶ Steven Andersen
- ✶ Aaron Yeo

HILDA WILSON MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

- ✶ Lei Liu
- ✶ Pearl Tan

HOOPER-MUNROE ACADEMIC AWARD

- ✶ Matthew Li
- ✶ Alexandra Knebel

JAVA JIVE MERCHANTS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- ✶ Ryan Beck
- ✶ Laura Brookbanks
- ✶ Vanessa Johnson

LORNE CALHOUN MEMORIAL AWARD

- ✶ Elauna Boutwell
- ✶ Stephen Lee

ROYAL BANK FINANCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT AWARD

- ✶ Alexei Khair Mokhammad

ROYAL BANK STUDENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT AWARD

- ✶ Harry Chandler

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISM AWARD

- ✶ Scott Fenwick
- ✶ Janine Hancock

SUBWAY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

- ✶ Malika Ladha

TACO TIME OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE AWARD

- ✶ Lance Chung
- ✶ Lillian Du
- ✶ Jonathan (Jung-Lynn) Yang

TEVIE MILLER INVOLVEMENT AWARD

- ✶ Alexis Young
- ✶ Dustin Chelen

TOM LANCASTER MEMORIAL AWARD

- ✶ Steven Dollansky
- ✶ Robert Lees-Miller

STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR

- ✶ Make Poverty History

STUDENT GROUP COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD

- ✶ Pakistani Students' Association
- ✶ Iranian Students' Association University of Alberta

STUDENT GROUP BEST EVENT AWARD

- ✶ Indian Students' Association 'Diwali'

STUDENT GROUP ACADEMIC SERVICES EXCELLENCE AWARD

- ✶ Interdepartmental Science Students' Society

GREEN GURU — EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

- ✶ Arvin Abedi
 - ✶ Stefanie Drozda
 - ✶ Brett Hotchkiss
- ### SALUTE AWARD
- ✶ Dr. Brian Maraj
 - ✶ Marina De Rementeria
 - ✶ Dr. Feng Dai

THE MAIMIE S. SIMPSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✶ Lu Qiao

THE REGINALD CHARLES LISTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✶ Matthew Li
- ✶ Adam Humble
- ✶ Cian Hackett

THE ALUMNI 75TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP

- ✶ Kevin Zuo

THE ALUMNI ADVANTAGE AWARD

- ✶ Bethany Ostrowerka
- ✶ Eric C. Y. Leung

THE TD INSURANCE MELOCHE MONNEX LEADERSHIP AWARD

- ✶ Lee Rehak

THE HONOURABLE DR. LOIS E. HOLE STUDENT SPIRIT AWARD

- ✶ Leona Semenoff

GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS

- ✶ Chelsea Bedrejo
- ✶ Emerson Csorba
- ✶ Steven Dollansky
- ✶ Angela Han
- ✶ Darren Liviniuk
- ✶ Chris Skappak
- ✶ Kayla Stan
- ✶ Craig Turner
- ✶ Jonathan (Jung-Lynn) Yang

COCA COLA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- ✶ Mandy Marie Archibald
- ✶ Debraj Das
- ✶ Rowan El-Bialy
- ✶ Cian Hackett
- ✶ Chongya Niu
- ✶ Mohamed Hassan Sharshar
- ✶ Rannie Tao
- ✶ Dalton Terhorst
- ✶ Logan Wiwchar
- ✶ Kevin Zuo

STUDENTS' UNION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

- ✶ Matthew Dyck



—Lord Tennyson

social intercourse

Splash!

The Official After-Party of Western Canada Fashion Week Spring 2011 & Silent Auction Fundraiser

Friday, April 1 at 8 p.m.

North Point on Ninth (10507–109 Street)

\$25 at latitude53.org

Fashion fans of Edmonton should be aware of the Western Canada Fashion Week taking place from March 24–31, and they also know that the week isn't over without a well-deserved afterparty. Fulfilling that important task is Splash!, a Fashion Week party and fundraiser hosted by the contemporary art gallery Latitude 53. I'm thoroughly stoked about D. Jaycie Pace's jams, the amazing food (clearly I'm a starving university student), and of course, the Finlandia vodka cocktails (again, I'm a university student). Oh and don't worry — the April Fool's pranks will be kept at a minimum. Probably.

Alberta Ballet: Serenade & Vigil of Angels

April 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Jubilee Auditorium (11455–87 Avenue)

\$24–102 at albertaballet.com

Ballet is the coolest thing you have never seen. Back in January, I went to my first ballet performance, which was danced to the sublime music of Chopin to commemorate 201 years since the legendary composer's birth. The show decidedly won't be my last. Alberta Ballet's two encore performances, *Serenade* and *Vigil of Angels*, have earned favourite spots of the artistic director and audiences alike.

Mostly Water Live @ the Roxy!

With guest host Mark Meer and live music by F&M

Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m.

The Roxy Theatre (10708–124 Street)

\$21 available at the door or

www.attheroxy.com

I know what you might be thinking: this must be a water show that's got water with a little bit of water. That sounds understandable, but Mostly Water Theatre is actually a sketch comedy troupe, and Mostly Water Live @ the Roxy is a variety show they've been putting on since 2009. Past guests have included CBC Radio's Peter Brown and Mayor of Edmonton Stephen Mandel. This Saturday's show is being hosted by local theatre celebrity Mark Meer, with music by the husband-and-wife duo F&M. If you liked Mostly Water's play *15 Minutes* at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, this definitely won't disappoint.

Music at Winspear presents The University Symphony Orchestra

Monday, April 4 at 8 p.m.

Winspear Centre

(Sir Winston Churchill Square)

\$10–20 at the Winspear Box Office

Sometimes when I walk through the Fine Arts building, I spot music students after their classes shouldering black cases of various shapes and sizes, and I think to myself, "I wish I could watch them play." Well, someone must have read my mind, because the University Symphony Orchestra is performing the world premiere of a piece by Colin Labadie, this year's Department of Music Composition winner. Along with the new piece, the performance will feature classic repertoire by Glazunov and Brahms. After Monday, I trust my thoughts will read: "I wish I could watch them play — again."

DULGUUN BAYASGALAN
Social Intercourse: The Finer Things Edition



Mother Mother's Ryan Guldemonnd unearths his own musical messages

musicpreview

Mother Mother

With Guests

Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m.

Edmonton Event Centre (8882–170 Street)

Sold Out

MATT MEUSE

Arts & Entertainment Writer

For Mother Mother's Ryan Guldemonnd, being a rock star is much like being an electrician.

"In this day and age, music is becoming more of a trade, you know?" he continues. "It's almost like a working man's profession. In order to make ends meet, you've got to just be out on the road playing shows."

But Guldemonnd doesn't see this as a wholly bad thing. "The stigma's being ripped out of the integration of advertising and music," he says. "It's like bands are seen less as sellouts when they're on a commercial for a car, and more as heroes in their trade for making it work and being diverse. So I think, yeah, on the one hand it sucks because it's harder to make it work, but on the other, it's like it's forcing artists to be a bit more multifarious in their profession and less mono-dimensional."

And indeed, if there's one thing Mother Mother isn't, it's mono-dimensional. Their music can be hard to lump into any one category, but this doesn't bother Guldemonnd.

"I just don't really care too much about genre," he says. "I mean, I have some opinions about what classifies as what, but in this day and age it's just so promiscuous, genres. They just want to mingle. So it seems like everything's borrowing from all sorts of pots."

Guldemonnd describes Mother Mother's latest album *Eureka*, released earlier this month, as a

marked shift in the band's sound compared to previous outings. "We sort of ditched the whole chamber orchestration and folky instrumentation for more of an electric synth-driven sound, and the drums and bass are bigger," he says. "It's just larger in every way, I think. And it's a bit more playful and upbeat."

Guldemonnd himself served as the producer for *Eureka*, an aspect of making music that he's discovered a knack for.

"It was pretty awesome to be in the driver's seat, making your own calls, you know?" he says. "It was [still] very much a council-oriented thing. It's not like decisions were made without the whole band really confident and sure about the direction, so it was very team-oriented."

"I always kind of invent meaning [for songs] in retrospect, and it feels a little fraudulent sometimes, because I don't care enough about the meaning of the songs to pre-ordain them before writing."

RYAN GULDEMONND

LEAD VOCALIST, MOTHER MOTHER

While Guldemonnd enjoys exploring this part of the creative process, he's always eager to get back to work on the other side of the boards with Mother Mother. The process of making music has always been a very organic one for the band.

"It doesn't come from any place that feels very tangible, and there's never really any

emulation involved," says Guldemonnd. "It's just: sit down with a guitar and just wait for a melody to come, and then if you dig it, then you invest in it, and the song, over time, finishes itself. And then you infiltrate it with the players in the band, the voices, and and instrumentation. Before you know it, you have a character, a sonic personality, and it truly feels like you almost had nothing to do with it."

Since his songs tend to arise through what seems like their own volition, Guldemonnd doesn't usually put too much stake in what their deeper meanings might be. When asked about them, Guldemonnd often discovers things about how he thinks about music that he may not have even known about himself.

"I always kind of invent meaning in retrospect, and it feels a little fraudulent sometimes, because I don't care enough about the meaning of the songs to preordain them before writing," he confesses. "I'd prefer if people just found their own meanings. Which, you know, have proven to be very elastic. Because everybody's different, and they just — they take things in differently."

"But you know," he continues, "doing interviews and having to explain the band so much, you're kind of forced to derive meaning from your song in a backwards fashion. And I find that kind of fascinating and self-informative, because otherwise I would just let it be; I wouldn't dissect the message. But see, I'm forced to, so I think I might learn something about it and myself from doing so."

Between Mother Mother, a string of recent solo shows, and his burgeoning career as a producer, Guldemonnd's aims at rock stardom seem to be getting closer — whatever that means. "I don't know what defines 'making it big,'" he says. "I care not to define it, actually."

"Judge me lightly," he says cheekily. "I'm just making up all this stuff."

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KAITLYN MENARD

An artist shrouded in secrecy

New Studio Theatre production delves into the life and work of Gertrude Stein

theatre preview

The Gertrude Stein Project

Directed and adapted by Beau Coleman

Designed by Katherine Jenkins

Starring Spenser Payne, Peter Fernandes, Samantha Hill, Nicola Elbro, and Jamie Cavanagh

Runs March 31-April 9 at 7:30 p.m.,
matinée performance on Thursday,
April 7 at 12:30 p.m.

Timms Centre for the Arts (87
Avenue and 112 Street)
\$5-20 at Tix-on-the-Square or at the
Timms Box Office

ALEX MIGDAL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

There's an air of mystery that hangs over the name Gertrude Stein. It generates that tip-of-the-tongue feeling where you can't quite figure out what she's known for, despite feeling you've heard the name before. Even director Beau Coleman knew little of Stein at first when she started work on her latest production *The Gertrude Stein Project*.

"It had always been sort of a curiosity in the back of my head that, at some point, I would like to find out more about her and tackle some of her texts," Coleman says. "The minute I started working on it, it started wanting to go into being its own piece."

Stein was, in fact, numerous things: a writer, poet, art collector, and part of a circle of high-profile literary friends whom she famously deemed "the lost generation." But it's her reclusive nature that makes her an ideal character to explore on stage. Bringing Stein to life has

been an organic process for Coleman, who conceived *The Gertrude Stein Project* entirely from scratch.

"The design process [was difficult] in a beautiful, wonderful way," says Coleman. "How do we create a space in which all this can occur and yet reflects the simplicity? It's very, very different. [...] We're creating something out of nothing."

"Anything that comes in visually, movement-wise, image-wise, vocally-wise, is considered text. So I was interested in not only just the written and the spoken, but what's the visual text? What's the movement text?"

BEAU COLEMAN

DIRECTOR, *THE GERTRUDE STEIN PROJECT*

Incidentally, it was by a stroke of luck that Coleman stumbled upon the project. She studied at Yale under Leon Katz, who discovered 1,500 notebooks penned by Stein. He reconstructed Stein's writings by interviewing her longtime partner Alice B. Toklas over four months. By sharing his findings with Coleman, he gave her rare access inside snippets of Stein's life, which came to form the basis of *The Gertrude Stein Project*.

"What are these little fragments?" Coleman asks. "We can take that idea of the archive and these fragments and create a bit of a sense [that]

we're not getting the full picture. And neither did Leon — he got these little fragments of notes [and] we're just getting these bits and pieces that are out of order."

As a result, Coleman chose to approach the project as a Steinian composition rather than a typical linear narrative. She also tackled the complexity of Stein's abstract writing by incorporating distinct visual motifs on stage.

"Stein is text, right?" she says. "Could we work this text as an object itself? Could we get a sense of anything as seen on that space? Anything that comes in visually, movement-wise, image-wise, vocally-wise, is considered text. So I was interested in not only just the written and the spoken, but what's the visual text? What's the movement text?"

"It's choreographed a lot," she continues. "The movement is central to the whole piece. It reads as a cross between theatre, dance, and spoken word. The motifs are through the creation of the choreography and, in some cases, the things that are closest aligned to the scenes."

While many critics have dismissed Stein's texts as unadaptable, Coleman believes that her vision truly reflects Stein's experimental approach to theatre, providing insight into a woman shrouded in mystery.

"[Stein says] the phrase 'theatre's landscape' and that we need to look at plays the same way we look at a painting — it's just there," says Coleman.

"You know, we might look at it, but it's not looking back at us, and so we don't necessarily have to tell [all] these stories. I think she would totally recognize that this is a landscape."

Latest *Eyre* adaptation's success lies in its subtleties

filmreview

Jane Eyre

Directed by Cary Fukunaga
Written by Charlotte Brontë, adapted by Moira Buffini
Starring Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender, and Judi Dench
Opens April 1

CAROLE YUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* has been the literary equivalent of a tub of Ben and Jerry's for generations of women: good for combatting heartbreak and mood swings. However, popularity is a cross to bear, and *Eyre* has had to endure numerous adaptations in a wide range of mediums, some less flattering than others. Up-and-coming director Cary Fukunaga takes on the challenge of creating a standout among all the other interpretations of Brontë's famous heroine, and comes away with notable success.

An early prototype of chick lit, *Jane Eyre* chronicles the remarkable events in the life of the otherwise ordinary character of Jane Eyre (Mia Wasikowska). Beset by the after-effects of a wretched childhood, Jane presents herself as a physically unexciting woman with an admirable intellect and an aggressively austere disposition.

When she becomes governess to the ward of Mr. Edward Rochester (Michael Fassbender), she learns that in spite of all her shortcomings, she's still found to be attractive. In a manoeuvre that was considered unusually progressive



at the time, Brontë's story also delays the consummation of Eyre and Mr. Rochester's romance until both parties have achieved some sort of gender equality.

Coupled with gothic motifs, energetic dialogue, and a dramatic skeleton in the closet, you can hardly blame the industry for wanting to resurrect the novel every few years.

Mia Wasikowska as Eyre is self-contained, yet more expressive than the Janes in some of the novel's previous film adaptations. Fukunaga employs Wasikowska's dance background in his direction, focusing on her body movement as a means to express her silenced emotions. Previous portrayals of Jane have always been timid and weak-looking, whereas Wasikowska embodies Jane with a confidence that

is more befitting for such a progressive character.

As per usual, Hollywood finds issue with casting unattractive male leads in a romantic film, even when the role calls for it. But looks aside, Fassbender does a wonderful job of embodying Rochester's idealistic yet flawed personality. Although his sideburns are slightly distracting, they aren't enough to detract from Fassbender's

performance.

Rochester is a difficult role to tackle, not just because of the idolatry that surrounds his character, but also because of his volatility. In the novel, Rochester is haughty and condescending, and Fassbender fluidly embodies all aspects of the role.

While Wasikowska and Fassbender have the benefit of a natural chemistry, the build-up of passions between the two lovers seems rushed at times, as if the destination was more important than the journey. One of the problems with adapting *Jane Eyre* is that much of the action takes place within Jane's thoughts, which tends to get lost when you translate the script into a more active medium.

Fukunaga's Victorian universe is a welcome deviation, using minimalist lines and bright, overexposed shots to create a clean Puritan look. Both the houses and gardens are sparsely furnished, and open areas lend a feeling of spaciousness. Unlike the gloomy and cluttered designs of previous *Eyre* adaptations, Fukunaga achieves a gothic look with starkness.

It's also interesting to note that while Fukunaga has stated his intention to draw out the gothic horror elements in *Jane Eyre*, this is only obvious in the cinematic trailer. The final product belies a more romantic influence, but this certainly doesn't diminish the overall potency of the film.

Fukunaga proves his mettle by challenging the long tradition of *Jane Eyre* adaptations and producing a cinematic offering that does justice to the passionate romance between Jane and her master. As Jane would say: viewer, I liked it.

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Mass Choir resurrects the dance parties of the '90s

musicpreview

Mass Choir

With *Cygnets and Braids*

Thursday, March 31 at 8 p.m.

The Pawn Shop (10549-82 Avenue)

\$8 at Blackbyrd or yeglive.ca

MADELINE SMITH

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The summer hit emerges from an especially potent brand of music. Summer is the time when pop artists bring out the big guns: the most relentless earworms and heaviest dance hooks that are impossible to escape for the entire season. Edmonton-based dance outfit Mass Choir, with one album already under their belt, is working on their next offering that's likely to be released in the fall — but they know the value of a great summer single.

"I've had one-song summers and I love them," keyboardist Jay Burke says.

"Was it Shaggy, 'It Wasn't Me'?" vocalist Mary Hulbert responds.

Everyone bursts out laughing as Hulbert and drummer Brett Henry begin their own rendition of the chorus of the infamous ode to bad

excuses for getting caught red-handed with the girl next door. When it's over, they all look at each other expectantly, then crack up again while bassist Nathan Setterlund attempts to imitate Shaggy's unintelligible singing style.

"Nobody knows the words to that part," Hulbert laughs.

The camaraderie between the members of Mass Choir is obvious, and although they've only been playing together in their current formation for slightly more than a year, they're all on board with their vision for the kind of experience they believe their music should provide. With its full roster of six members — including Matthew Skopyk and Peter Fernandes rounding out the group's vocals — Mass Choir in its entirety is a driving electropop force, combining thick synthesizer riffs, live drums and bass, and powerful back-and-forth male/female vocals.

"I feel that we're bringing a dance party to the Edmonton scene," Henry says. "We're trying to bring back that kind of '90s feel, but at the same time, we're trying to do it with a different twist."

"It really might just be the generation we come from," Burke says of the group's '90s-influenced aesthetics.



SUPPLIED: MARSHALL WATSON

"As far as when you're first becoming a teenager and getting a taste for things — for me, anyway, that was the heyday of *Electric Circus*."

"That constant rhythm is almost hypnotizing," Henry adds. "Even if you're not totally dancing, you're kind of — everybody is moving. That's what it's all about."

Making people move is extremely important for Mass Choir, and the band's primary focus is putting on a dynamic live show. Hulbert, who

also has a theatre background, feels particularly strongly about creating a genuine connection between both the band and the audience, and the band members themselves.

"Where I feel it all really comes alive, when we're all working together, is in the live set," Hulbert says. "It's a 45-minute, make-you-sweat power set. You better have stretched beforehand. But I know — and as flaky as this sounds — I can feel the energy they're giving behind

me. I know that every single person behind me is supporting me."

"And if I catch, out of the corner of my eye, Nathan rocking out so hard on the bass — if I get a little drip of his sweat, I'm like, 'Yeah, he's in it,'" she continues. "There are certain little drum things that Brett does that I know he's totally in it, and I look over at Jay, and I know what part he does. These are things you get to know."

"It's when we play live that the magic happens."

" 'BORN THIS WAY' IS ABOUT SAYING, 'THIS IS WHO I AM. THIS IS WHO THE FUCK I AM.' "

- LADY GAGA

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Alexandria Mah works full-time as a Revenue Canada auditor, plays intercollegiate soccer for the NAIT Ooks, and is pursuing both a degree and a CGA credential. She needed a degree program that delivered flexibility and results — and found it in NAIT's Bachelor of Business Administration.

The BBA builds on Alexandria's previous JR Shaw School of Business diploma, allowing her to finish quickly and work toward her accounting designation at the same time. And the choice of full-time, part-time and online course options means she can tailor her studies to fit her busy schedule.

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FILE PHOTOS: PAUL SWANSON, AMIRALI SHARIFI, ARMAND LUDICK

Alberta teams top Gateway rankings

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

For the third year in a row, Calgary continued their dominance of the Gateway rankings, our look at the best all around Canadian universities in sports. The Dinos claimed a pair of CIS championships in the swimming and qualified for the final showdown on the gridiron. Here's a look at how varsity teams across the country fared in their pursuit of triumph.



Saskatchewan Huskies 9
(74.5 points, Previous rank: T9)

Sneaking into this year's Gateway rankings, the Prairie Dogs mounted a respectful varsity campaign this season. And while they certainly had their opportunities to gain more points, the Saskatchewan Huskies can be proud of their consistent performance in all of their athletic pursuits this year.

Struggling out of the gate, the Huskies failed to qualify for the Canada West final tournament in women's soccer. While their male counterparts did end up qualifying this season, it ended in disappointment after losing to a more agile UBC squad in the gold-medal match. The Gridiron Huskies tripped up when it mattered most as well, giving up a 27-point lead to the Alberta Golden Bears in the Canada West semifinal. It was a loss that eliminated their chances at claiming their fourth Vanier Cup in team history.

But in the midst of a blisteringly cold winter on the prairies, both the men's and women's basketball teams put together a successful drive to the national championships. It was only after coming up against a pair of powerhouse Ontario squads that the Huskies would falter, settling for silver medals in the national tournaments.



St. Francis Xavier X-Men/X-Women 8
(85 points, Previous rank: N/A)

This tiny school from Antigonish, N.S., stunned the CIS community this year. With little more than 4,000 students to draw from, the X-Men and X-Women qualified four varsity teams to their respective national championships, earning a gold and silver medal in the process.

The school's lone gold medal this season came from the X-Women's rugby squad, who captured their second national banner in team history after beating the Canada West champion, the Lethbridge Pronghorns, in a nail-biting 20-17 victory.

After an impressive performance this year, the rest of the teams in the CIS won't be

underestimating the little train that could any longer.



Laval Rouge Et Or 7
(95 points, Previous rank: 6)

Doing it with their Speedos and shoulder pads, the Rouge Et Or showed their might this season, placing seventh in the Gateway rankings.

Playing in a sold-out stadium filled with 16,237 screaming hometown fans, the powerhouse Laval football team claimed their sixth Vanier Cup with a triumph over the Calgary Dinos on a cold afternoon in November. But what was even more impressive was the way that Laval won, dismantling the Dinos on both sides of the field to claim a 29-2 championship victory.

Not to be outdone, the Rouge Et Or swim teams came out of the woodwork finishing strong in at the CIS national swim meet. The women's team finished eighth overall, while the men's squad wound up on the podium with a bronze medal.



W. Ontario Mustangs T5
(97 points, Previous rank: T9)

They may not have received much attention, but the Western Ontario Mustangs made a strong charge in the CIS this year.

While the Purple and White only claimed one medal in varsity sports this year — a men's track and field third-place finish — the 'Stangs were consistent across the board, posting a top ten finish in 11 varsity sports, clawing their way up the rankings and scraping together points wherever they could find them to earn a respectable season when it was all said and done.



Windsor Lancers T5
(97 points, Previous rank: 7)

It was all about track and field for the Windsor Lancers this year. With a pair of first-place regular season finishes and an equal number of gold medals at the national championships, the Lancers ran like the wind and swept their CIS opposition in a decided fashion.

An integral part of the Track Lancers success this year was the coaching prowess of Dennis Fairall. The veteran coach has built his teams from the ground, leading both the squads to their second national championship in three years.

But Windsor's track team wasn't the only Lancers squad that out-ran their opposition this year. The Blue and Gold women's basketball team managed to impress as well. With a frantically paced offence, the Court Lancers topped the Ontario University Athletics division and emerged as champions in the CIS finals.



UBC Thunderbirds 4
(119, Previous rank: 3)

Although the UBC Thunderbirds have considered leaving the CIS for the NCAA, they certainly made this year count. Racking up several national championship appearances and a gold medal in women's volleyball, they will be remembered for their excellence north of the 49th parallel.

The T'Birds started the varsity season off in style, winning their 13th Canada West trophy in men's soccer. That team would go all the way to the top in the CIS national championship before falling to Laval in the gold medal match.

The men's basketball team mirrored their soccer counterparts, finishing first in the Canada West playoffs and claiming second prize in the national championship tournament.

But UBC wasn't done yet. Saving the best for last, the Thunderbirds dominated women's volleyball this year. Finishing the regular season ranked first in the country, the Volley Birds claimed their record-setting eighth national title and their fourth consecutive banner.



Guelph Gryphons 3
(124 points, Previous rank: 4)

There must be something in the water in southern Ontario that propels young runners to lightning fast speeds, because the Gryphons have been dominating their opposition for the better half of a decade. This season was no different for the Red and Gold, as both their men and women's cross-country teams stood atop the national podium this year.

The Guelph squad also claimed several individual honours in the sport. A pair of rookie of the year titles for both the men and women sides were awarded to a pair of outstanding Guelph athletes and men's captain Kyle Boorsma claimed athlete of the year.

But the Gryphs' charge up the Gateway standings was not solely a product of their success on the running trail. The Ontario team claimed second prize at the national swimming meet, and made strides in women's rugby as well.



Alberta Bears/Pandas 2
(146 points, Previous rank: 3)

The athletes of the Green and Gold improved on their ranking from last year, up from third place to second. Eight Green and Gold squads advanced to their respective national championship tournaments and the Pandas wrestling team was able to overcome their inexperience to claim their first national championship banner in team history.

All 18 varsity teams had seasons marked by improvement and excellence. The Gridiron Bears mounted an astonishing comeback to beat the Saskatchewan Huskies in the CanWest semifinals, the Pandas basketball team played through a plethora of injuries to qualify for the CIS regional championships, and the Golden Bears hockey team once again advanced to the CIS national championship tournament. And while the Puck Bears young roster was unable to make a dent against their more experienced opposition at the final tournament, they were certainly redeemed when their captain Eric Hunter claimed the Dr. Randy Gregg Award for most outstanding CIS hockey student-athlete.



Calgary Dinos 1
(205.5 points, Previous rank: 1)

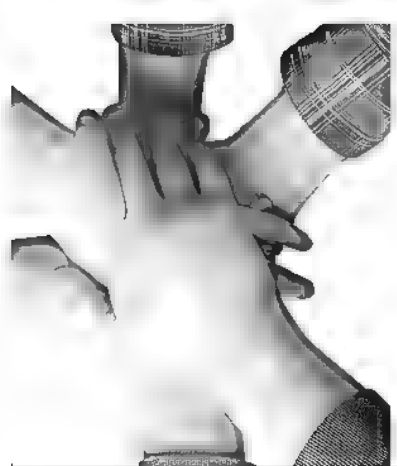
In an astonishing display of consistency, the Calgary Dinos claimed the top spot in this year's Gateway athletics rankings for the third straight year. A swimming powerhouse, the Red and White grabbed both the men and women's CIS banners this year. But the Dinos' swimming dominance didn't stop with a pair of team victories. Erica Morningstar won the women's swimming award, while Mike Blondal received the CIS swimming coach of the year award for both the men and women squads.

But the Dinos' varsity dominance extended outside of the water. Along with a number of individual awards, Calgary claimed a bronze medal in men's volleyball and came just short of winning this year's Vanier Cup. Solid performances in both cross-country and hockey also added to the Dinos' impressive total number of points.

THE NUMBERS GAME

Wondering how each team on the list got their magic number? Here's the breakdown: a team's placing at nationals secured 10 points for first place, nine for second, and eight points for bronze. But we also took into account each team's regular season performances. Teams ranked in the top 10 nationally at the end of the regular season received 10 points for first place, nine points for second, and so on all the way down the list. Individual performance-based awards for each sport (Athlete of the Year, etc.) were awarded five points apiece, while merit-based awards (student-athlete of the year) were awarded three points each. All points for the top three winners in the seven major sports with televised finals were multiplied by 1.5.

Gold medals, comebacks highlight Green and Gold's best

SPORTS
STAFFGroup
Commentary

With the 2010–11 varsity season officially in the books, it's time to reflect on the year gone by. Fists were raised into the air, more than a few tears were shed, but this year was chock full of Green and Gold triumph. With seven months of competition to choose from, here is a list of our favourite varsity memories from the 18 Bears and Pandas varsity teams that competed their hearts out this year.

Evan Daum**Sending the Dinos packing**

There's nothing quite as satisfying as watching the Calgary Dinos ride into town, only to see them limp out of Clare Drake Arena after a thumping at the hands of the Bears hockey squad.

That's exactly what happened in this year's Canada West hockey final when the Bears claimed their 49th conference title by outscoring the Dinos 11–1 and sweeping the team in two games.

After a semifinal win over the Saskatchewan Huskies a week earlier in the Stampede City, Calgary entered the weekend feeling good about their chances against Alberta. But by the time the Canada West Final was over, the only thing the Dinos could think about was getting their hands on some greasy comfort food courtesy of Peter's Drive-In.

Billed as the beginning of a bigger and better Battle of Alberta between the top two teams in Canada West, it developed into a one-sided affair in favour of the home side.

Despite the fact the Dinos didn't put up much of a fight, watching the Bears score at will in the Saturday night game, along with some hand-shaking shenanigans after the contest, made the Bears Canada West final series my favourite moment from the 2010–11 CIS season.

Alexandria Eldridge
Gridiron Bears comeback

My favourite moment from this year's varsity season is from a game I wasn't even attending.

I was watching a disappointing Pandas playoff soccer game at Foote Field in early November. The Pandas, who were favoured to win the 2010 Canada West title, were losing to the UBC Thunderbirds in the semifinals.

But during half-time, we got some good news for U of A Athletics. The Golden Bears football team was in Saskatoon that weekend to play in the Canada West semifinals. After a disappointing regular season, nobody was expecting the Bears to advance much further and their performance during the early part of the game aligned with everyone's expectations. At the end of the third quarter, they were trailing 30–10.

But through sheer determination, the Gridiron Bears clawed their way through and mounted a 21-point comeback in the fourth quarter to win the game against the Saskatchewan Huskies. It was the Bears' most

meaningful victory in a fairly lacklustre season.

The win allowed the Green and Gold to advance to the Canada West finals against the Calgary Dinos. Although they didn't perform quite as well on the turf the following weekend, falling to their Alberta rivals, their stunning upset against the Huskies was a great moment. I just wish I could've been in Saskatoon to witness Jerry Friesen's final victory as Bears head coach firsthand.

Matt Hirji
A last-second shot

With less than a second on the clock in a pivotal mid-season match against the top-ranked UBC Thunderbirds, second-year Alberta forward Todd Bergen-Henengouwen made a play that left every Bears basketball fan inside the Main Gym that night on their feet.

The game between the Bears and T'Birds was knotted at 86 when Bergen-Henengouwen's roommate Jordan Baker missed a 15-foot shot from the right side of the court. But, sensing his opportunity to clean up the rebound, the Picture Butte native charged down the left side of the key, leaped into the air, and redirected Baker's shot through the mesh to claim the game winning basket and take a game away from their Canada West rivals.

Bergen-Henengouwen's heroics ultimately provided the Green and Gold the opportunity to host a play-off series and qualify for their first Canada West championship in three years. But the young Bears forward will likely never forget when the

Main Gym erupted in cheer for him.

Max Lutz
Pandas become golden

This year was not as successful for the University of Alberta varsity sports teams as in year's past. Several of the Green and Gold varsity teams that had their eye on the ultimate prize were unable to grasp onto the glory in the end.

However, there were some exceptions, and the Pandas wrestling team tops them all. They got to experience the sweet taste of a CIS national championship for the first time in their 13-year history.

Entering the tournament as a young, relatively inexperienced squad, there were plenty of questions about how the Pandas would handle the pressure of the national stage. But the Pandas persevered, fending off the top-ranked University of Calgary Dinos by a two-point margin to claim the top team title.

As is the case in any national victory, leadership must be key. Pandas bench boss Owen Dawkins provided just that, receiving the CIS female wrestling coach of the year award for his efforts. Dawkins was able to reel in his young, nervous players and get them focused on the task at hand, propelling them to a phenomenal performance across the board.

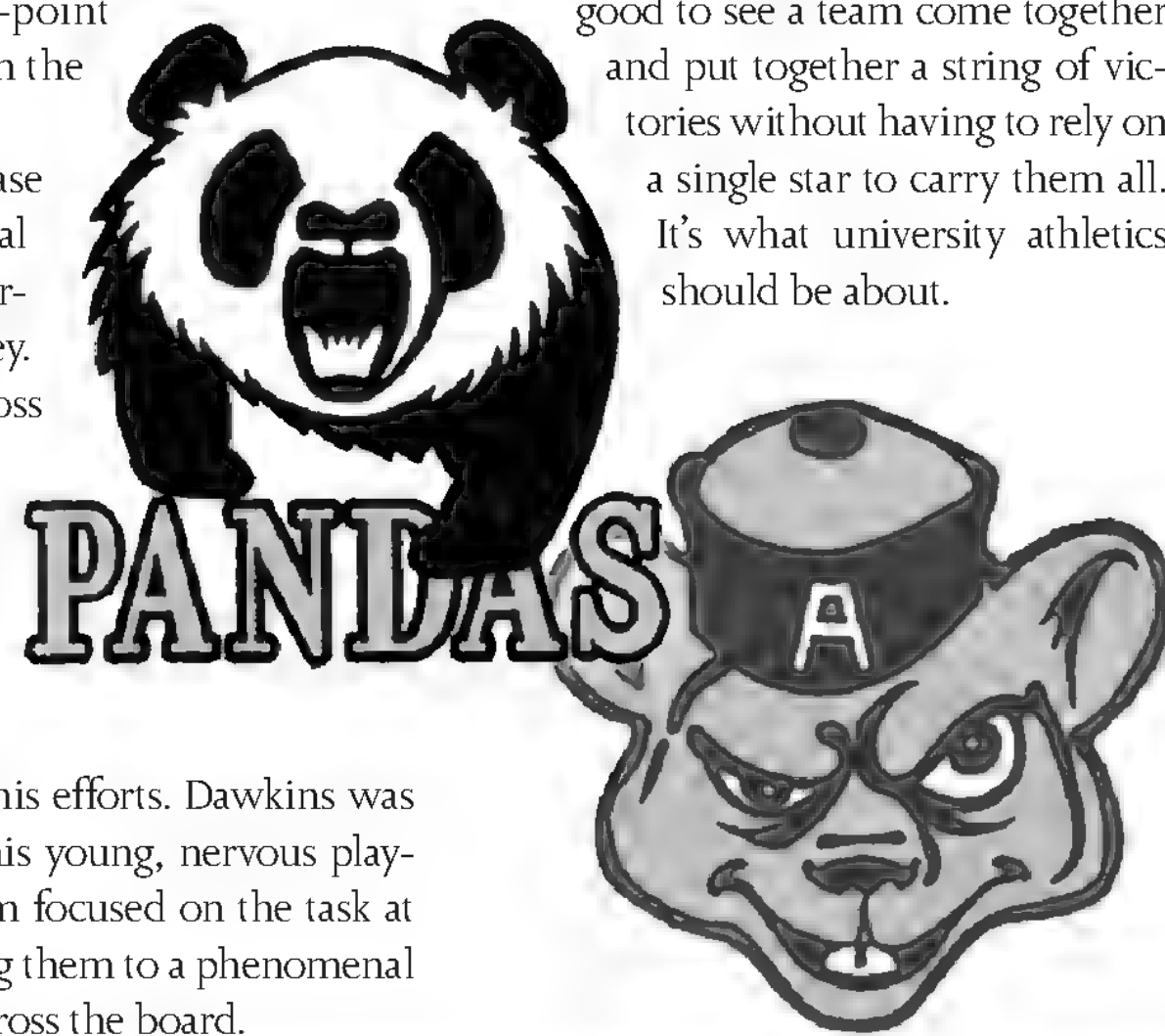
Justin Bell
A team effort

It was a tough Christmas break for the Puck Pandas. The squad played a couple of exhibition games against a pair of lesser teams and only came away with a single victory. And while the games meant nothing, it seemed to shake them.

After returning to regular season action, suddenly, the squad's top scorers couldn't find the back of the net. Captain Leah Copeland didn't pot a goal for the first six games.

But the Pandas were unfazed. Despite their top line's scoring drought, goals started coming from the most unlikely places, and everybody pitched in to produce the Green and Gold's trademark offensive firepower, outscoring their opponents 45–8 in the second half of the season.

It's unfortunate they weren't rewarded with another national banner, but it was good to see a team come together and put together a string of victories without having to rely on a single star to carry them all. It's what university athletics should be about.



THIS PAINTING IS NOT FUNNY.

SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NOT EVEN A SPEECH BALLOON OR A CAPTION SAYING "WHOOPS, THERE GOES KRAKATOA!" IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS NO-TALENT CLOWN, VOLUNTEER FOR GATEWAY COMICS & ILLUSTRATION AND SHOW HIM HOW COMEDY IS DONE.



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FILE PHOTOS: MATT HIRJI, AARON YEO, PETER HOLMES, ARMAND LUDICK

A PHOTO FINISH The Bears and Pandas varsity teams completed their seasons this weekend when the Golden Bears finished their charge to the University Cup this past weekend. But the Puck Bears weren't the only team to qualify for their respective national championship tournaments. In total, 19 out of the 25 teams on campus qualified for the big dance and the women's wrestling team claimed their first national championship — extending the Bears' and Pandas' record of winning at least one national championship every year to 18 years. "Obviously, that's a record to be envied by most of our competitors for sure," Acting Director of Athletics Vang Ioannides said. "We continue to compete on an elite level in just about every single sport. We're pretty happy about that." Now it's on to training for next season. *The Gateway* wishes all of the 600 student-athletes on campus best of luck in all their future endeavours.

123

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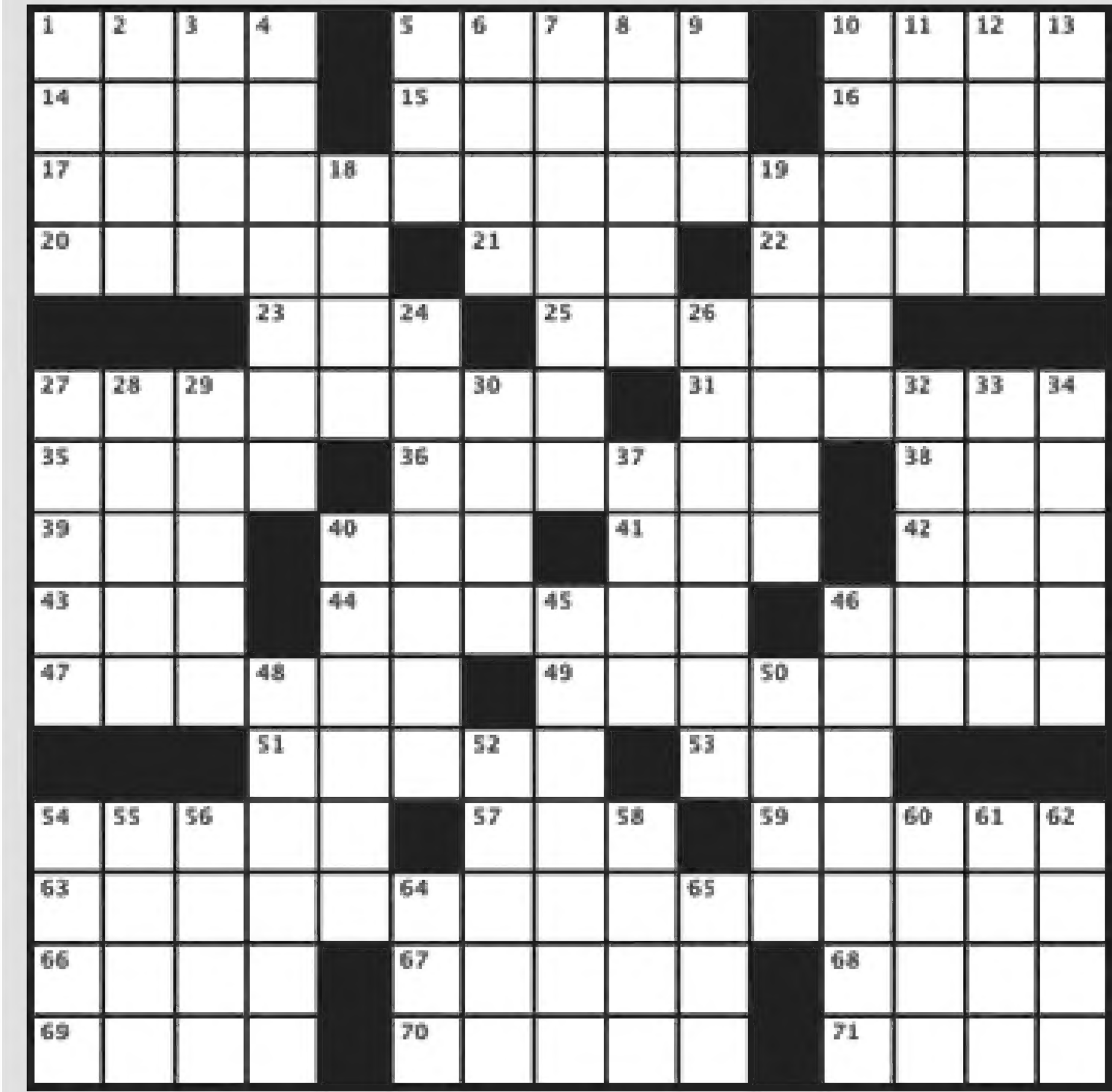
MUNICIPAL HAPPENINGS by Bill Benson



METALEETO by Ross Vincent



crossword



Puzzle provided by
BestCrosswords.com
Used with permission.

Across

- 1. Not much
- 5. Tears
- 10. Calamitous
- 14. Ornamental fabric
- 15. Influence
- 16. Part of Q.E.D.
- 17. Eye doctor
- 20. First name in cosmetics
- 21. Direct a gun
- 22. Chinese martial arts
- 23. Madrid Mrs.
- 25. People and places, e.g.
- 27. Narrow braid
- 31. Names
- 35. Bloody conflicts
- 36. Land, as a fish
- 38. German article
- 39. Loss leader?
- 40. Put on
- 41. Gerund maker
- 42. Form of poem, often used to praise something
- 43. Bumped into
- 44. Place in bondage
- 46. Draft classification

- 47. Attractive
- 49. Large burrowing African mammal
- 51. Small branch
- 53. 100 square meters
- 54. Room at the top
- 57. Actress Peeples
- 59. Angry
- 63. Swollen nodes
- 66. Asian sea
- 67. Corrodes
- 68. Native Canadian
- 69. Nada
- 70. Doles (out)
- 71. Makes brown

Down

- 1. Burn soother
- 2. Knocks lightly
- 3. Zwei cubed
- 4. Hates intensely
- 5. Nipper's co.
- 6. First name in jazz
- 7. Candidate
- 8. Cathedral
- 9. Letters on a Cardinal's cap
- 10. Taste carefully
- 11. Coloured part of the eye
- 12. Impetuous
- 13. Famous last words

- 18. Mother of Ares
- 19. Possessing
- 24. An acrostic
- 26. As below
- 27. Slough
- 28. Western
- 29. Component of organic fertilizer
- 30. Coop group
- 32. Hotelier Helmsley
- 33. Bird that gets you down
- 34. Move stealthily
- 37. Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy
- 40. Disengage
- 45. Least difficult
- 46. Perform in an exaggerated manner
- 48. Three-bagger
- 50. Faucet problem
- 52. Excessive
- 54. King of comedy
- 55. Neophyte
- 56. Counterfeiter catcher
- 58. Chip in
- 60. Gillette brand
- 61. At that time
- 62. Baby blues
- 64. Chair part
- 65. CIA forerunner

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13 REASONS WHY I AM BETTER THAN YOU

- 1. I got me some wicked lightsaber skills.
- 2. I know how to make my own green onion cakes (it's just flour, water, and green onions, people!)
- 3. I ran as a slate for all six council positions in my own faculty. Which faculty? The Faculty

of SUPAStars.

- 4. I advocate social justice and humble my enemies simply by calling them "barbarians."
- 5. My dick is made of chocolate.
- 6. I'm the first person in history to do the Stone-Cold Stunner on the Pope.
- 7. I make wise investments — potassium and tacos are bullish right now.

- 8. I totally got the highest score in *Fruit Ninja*.
- 9. I have my own gender — I'm a sman.
- 10. Remember the "dramatic prairie dog?" He was looking at me. Bah-bah-BUMMMM!
- 11. I invented a time machine. I call it a clock.
- 12. The answer to 65 Across is "OSS."
- 13. I end my lists on unlucky 13. Be afraid!



6.25

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